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# FARM FAMILY LIVING

OCTOBER 1938





## OUTLOOK CHART SERIES

1939

The charts in this book, have been selected by the Outlook Committees as those best adapted for presenting graphically the economic background for the respective commodities. Though the charts are as up-to-date as available data will permit, mimeographed data sheets will be mailed early in November for bringing to date, as of November 1, those charts and tables having monthly data. Many other charts which are useful in special cases but are not included in this booklet can be supplied upon request.\*

### OUTLOOK CHART BOOKS FOR 1939

Beef Cattle	Oil Seeds: Flax, Soybeans, Peanuts
Cotton	and Cottonseed
Dairy Products	Potatoes and Truck Crops
Demand, Credit and Prices	Poultry and Eggs
Farm Family Living	Rice, Dry Beans and Broomcorn
Feed Crops and Livestock	Sheep, Lambs, and Wool
Fruits and Nuts	Tobacco
Hogs	Wheat and Rye

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\*See "Agricultural Economics Charts," mimeographed, June 1937.



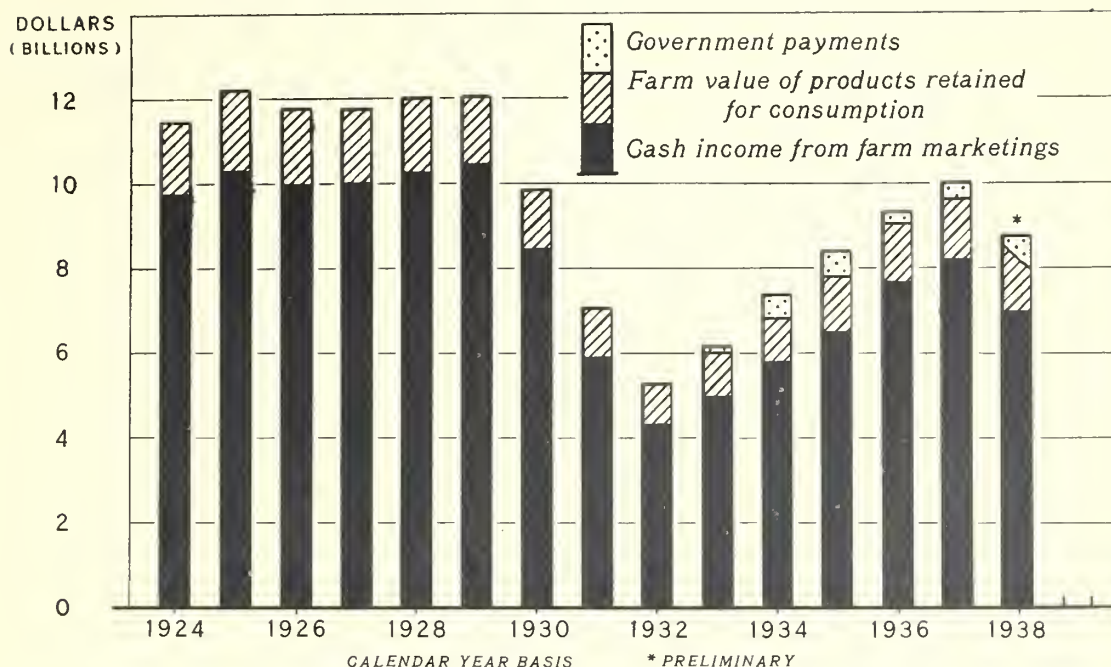
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## GROSS AND CASH FARM INCOME, UNITED STATES, 1924-38



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 34549 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

## Gross income from farm production, 1924 to date

The estimates of gross farm income shown in the chart include the cash income from sales of farm products, the value of farm products retained for consumption in the farm home (valued at average prices received by producers), and, beginning in 1933, Government payments to farmers. All of these estimates are on a calendar year basis.

The gross farm income of \$10,003,000,000 in 1937 may be compared with \$9,317,000,000 in 1936 and with \$5,284,000,000 in 1932. The greater

portion of the increase from 1936 to 1937 was due to the increase in income from crops and from Government payments. Total gross income from the 78 different crops on which estimates are based increased 11 percent. Gross income from livestock and livestock products increased 3 percent. Government payments during 1937 were 28 percent larger than in 1936.

August 1938 estimates place gross farm income for the year 1938 at \$8,750,000,000.

## Gross and cash farm income in the United States, calendar years 1924 to date

Year	Cash income from farm marketings	Farm value of products retained for consumption	Gross farm income	Government payments	Gross farm income and Government payments
	Mil.dol.	Mil.dol.	Mil.dol.	Mil.dol.	Mil.dol.
1924	9,785	1,698	11,483	-	-
1925	10,324	1,919	12,243	-	-
1926	9,993	1,798	11,791	-	-
1927	10,016	1,737	11,753	-	-
1928	10,289	1,727	12,016	-	-
1929	10,479	1,570	12,049	-	-
1930	8,451	1,396	9,847	-	-
1931	5,899	1,143	7,042	-	-

Year	Cash income from farm marketings	Farm value of products retained for consumption	Gross farm income	Government payments	Gross farm income and Government payments
	Mil.dol.	Mil.dol.	Mil.dol.	Mil.dol.	Mil.dol.
1932	4,328	956	5,284	-	-
1933	4,955	1,025	5,980	162	6,142
1934	5,792	1,044	6,836	556	7,392
1935	6,507	1,310	7,817	583	8,400
1936	7,657	1,373	9,030	287	9,317
1937 <sup>2/</sup>	8,233	1,403	9,636	367	10,003
1938 <sup>3/</sup>	-	1,250	-	-	8,750
1939	-	-	-	-	-

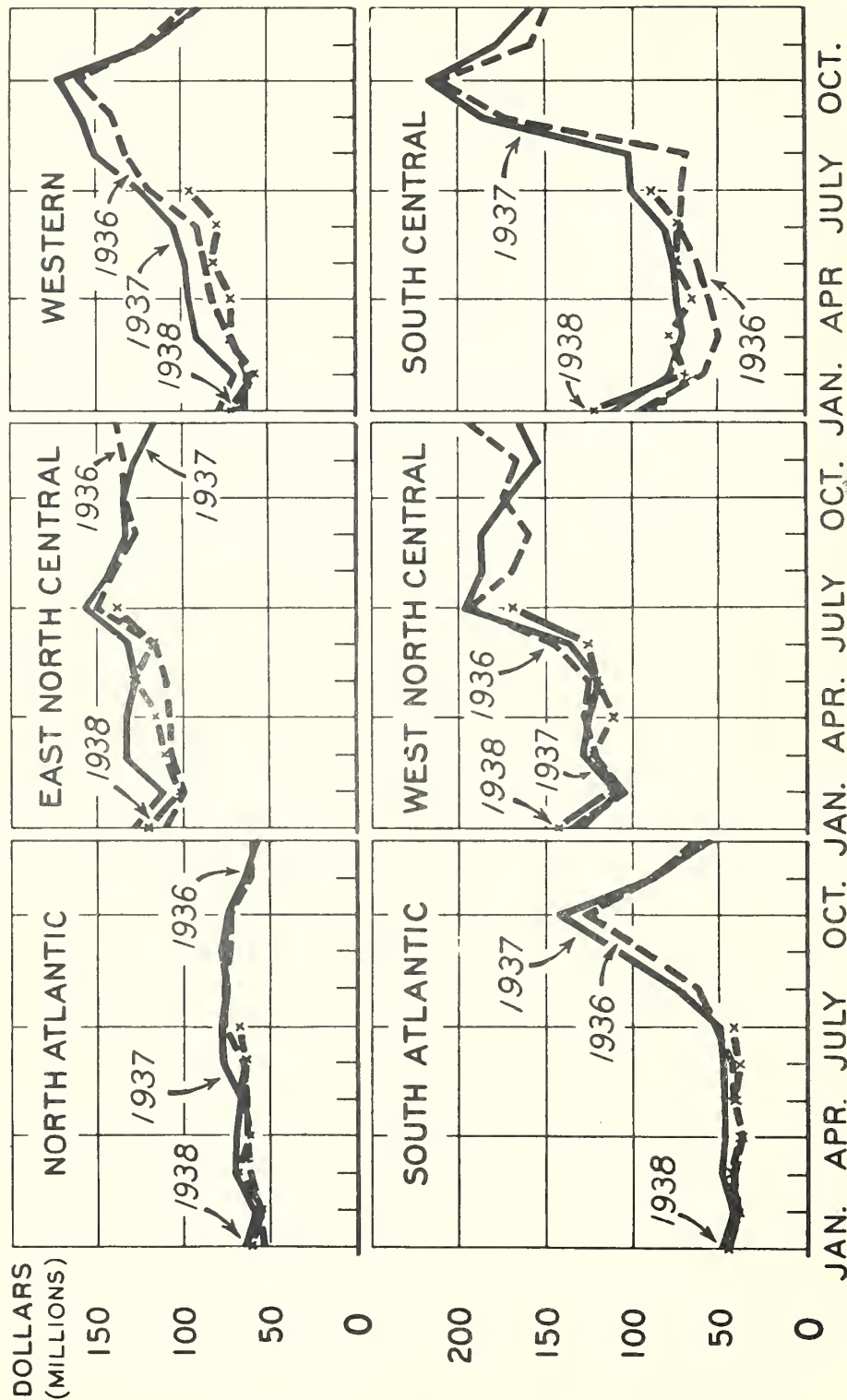
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

1/ Quantities retained for home consumption valued at average prices received by producers during the calendar year.

2/ Preliminary.

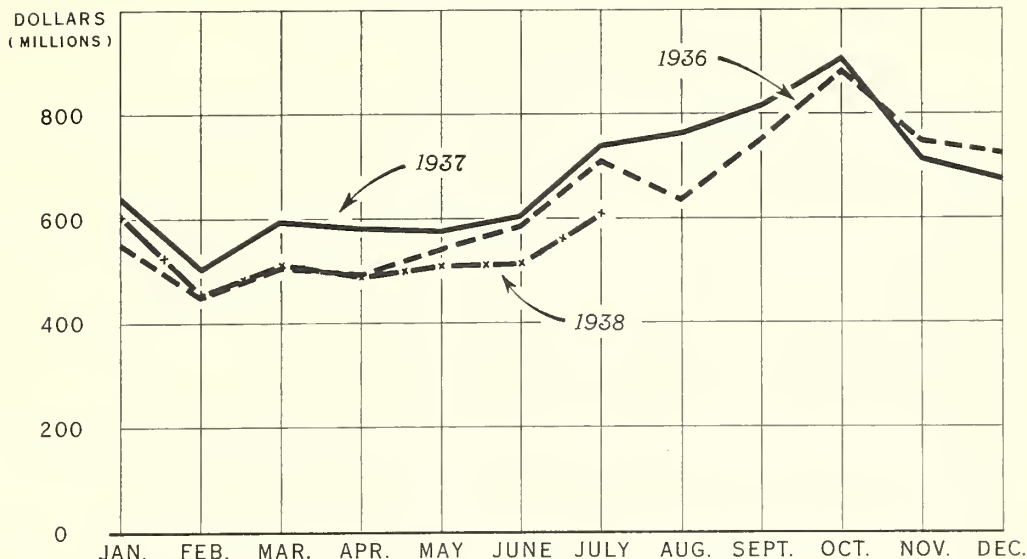
3/ Tentative estimates.

# RECEIPTS FROM THE SALE OF PRINCIPAL FARM PRODUCTS, BY REGIONS, 1936 TO DATE \*



\* EXCLUDES GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS TO FARMERS

# RECEIPTS FROM THE SALE OF PRINCIPAL FARM PRODUCTS, UNITED STATES, 1936 TO DATE\*



\* EXCLUDES GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS TO FARMERS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 34609

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

## Receipts from sale of principal farm products (excluding Government payments), 1936 to date

Periodic estimates of receipts from the sales of farm products indicate how farm income is likely to change from year to year or from season to season. These estimates are based on sales of 33 important farm commodities which, for the country as a whole, contribute about 93 percent of the annual cash income from all farm products.

Seasonal variations are most marked in those regions where farm income is derived mainly from crops. This is especially true in the South Atlantic and South Central regions. But in the North Atlantic and East North Central

regions, where income is chiefly from livestock or livestock products, seasonal variation is much less marked.

For the country as a whole, receipts from farm marketings in the first 8 months of 1938 were 14 percent below the corresponding period of 1937. Receipts from crop sales were down 24 percent and receipts from sales of livestock and livestock products were down 6 percent. Lower prices were largely responsible for this decline in cash receipts.

## Cash receipts from sale of principal farm products (excluding Government payments), 1937 to date

Year and month	North Atlantic Mil.dol.	South Atlantic Mil.dol.	East North Central Mil.dol.	West North Central Mil.dol.	South Central Mil.dol.	Western Mil.dol.	United States <sup>1</sup> Mil.dol.
1937							
January.....	63.3	49.2	127.6	131.7	119.1	78.2	638
February.....	58.2	42.2	111.1	106.5	70.3	69.1	505
March.....	69.7	48.5	132.9	125.8	73.3	92.3	596
April.....	67.8	46.8	133.1	125.1	70.6	95.2	583
May.....	67.7	47.8	128.6	119.5	76.6	97.6	577
June.....	77.4	49.1	132.5	137.0	80.1	104.4	604
July.....	78.2	49.0	157.6	195.9	100.3	124.0	740
August.....	74.7	73.8	143.0	186.4	102.3	152.3	766
September.....	77.3	108.0	132.5	186.8	185.4	159.1	816
October.....	74.6	142.2	133.8	171.4	216.1	170.2	907
November.....	64.7	86.6	128.2	154.1	178.0	116.3	713
December.....	57.4	55.0	116.3	166.3	157.4	90.9	675
1938							
January.....	61.2	45.1	120.6	142.8	122.6	70.1	603
February.....	55.2	38.6	100.5	110.8	67.9	56.4	456
March.....	67.8	42.6	110.3	122.0	77.8	71.3	512
April.....	60.9	37.1	116.0	110.6	65.3	71.4	489
May.....	64.5	41.4	127.3	120.2	73.3	80.1	509
June.....	63.0	39.7	117.4	127.1	73.6	78.1	514
July.....	67.8	44.3	137.0	170.2	88.7	96.0	609
August.....							
September.....							
October.....							
November.....							
December.....							

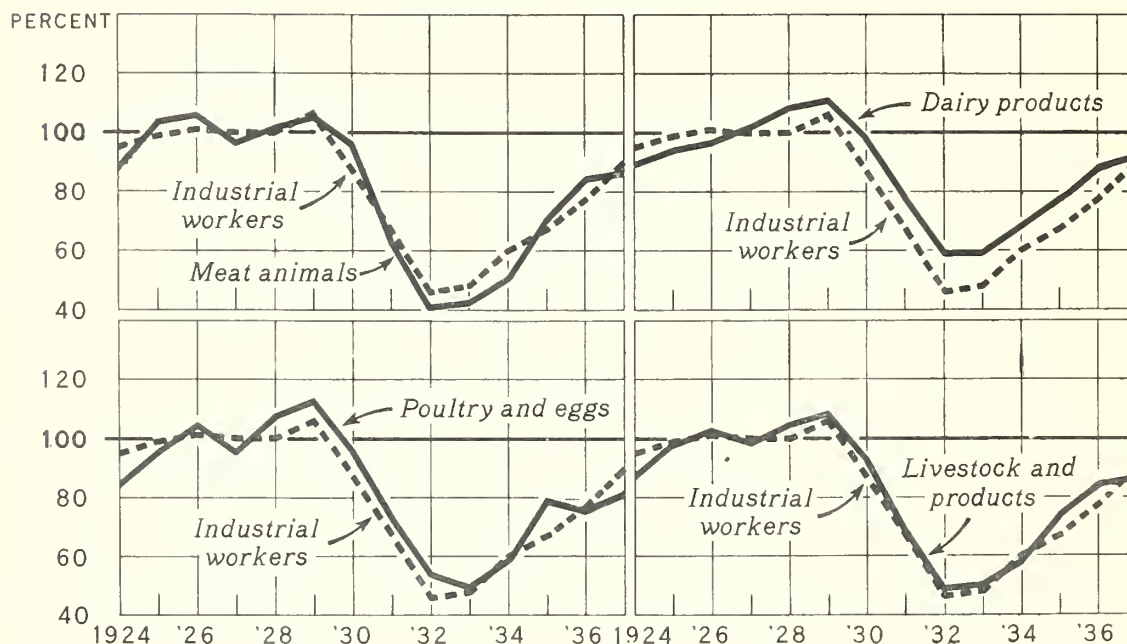
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

<sup>1</sup> These figures are not equal to the sum of the regional estimates. The figures for the country as a whole have been adjusted downward for interstate sale of livestock, and include income from some farm products not included in regional estimates.



# CASH FARM INCOME FROM LIVESTOCK AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS, BY GROUPS, AND INCOME OF INDUSTRIAL WORKERS, 1924-37

INDEX NUMBERS (1924-29=100)



NEG. 27015

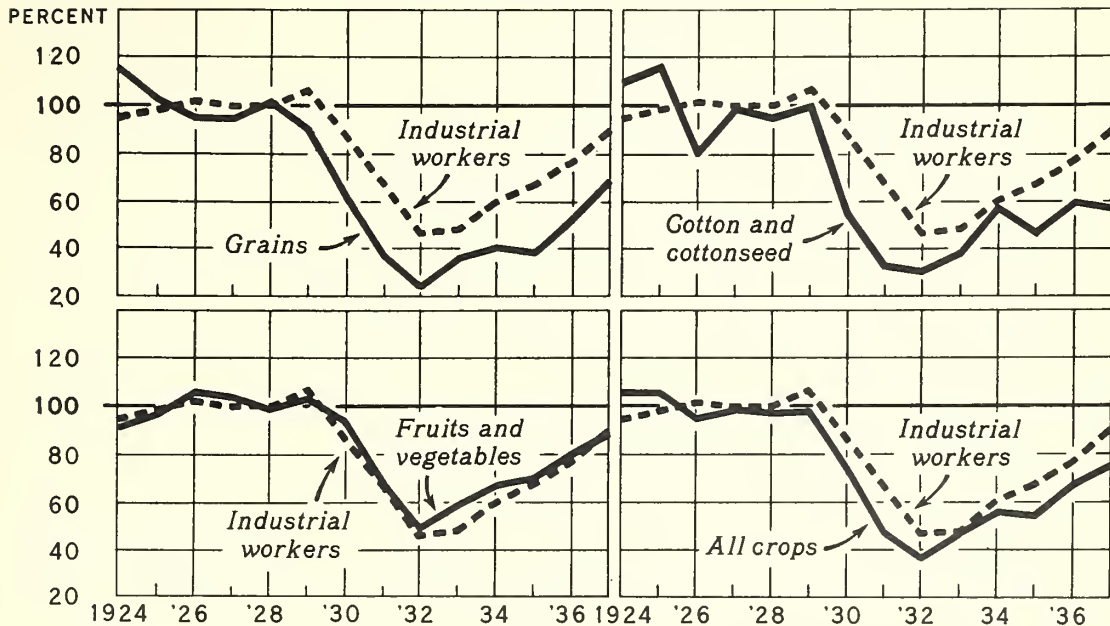
Changes in the quantities of livestock and livestock products marketed from year to year influence prices received; but, since prices decline when the quantity marketed increases, and vice versa, the changes in marketings affect cash income less than they do prices. Changes in prices resulting from changes in consumer purchasing power and demand, however, may not be offset by changes in quantities sold. Hence, the incomes received by producers from the sale of livestock and livestock products tend to vary with changes in the incomes of industrial workers and other consumers.

Cash farm income from livestock and livestock products, by groups, and income of  
industrial workers, United States, 1924-37  
Index numbers (1924-29 = 100)

Year	Meat animals	Dairy products	Poultry and eggs	All live- stock and products	Industrial workers
1924	87.5	89.0	84.0	87.5	95
1925	103.5	94.0	95.5	98.5	99
1926	105.5	96.5	104.5	102.5	101
1927	96.5	101.5	95.5	98.5	100
1928	101.5	108.5	107.5	105.0	100
1929	105.5	111.0	112.5	108.5	106
1930	91.5	98.5	96.0	93.5	87
1931	63.5	78.5	73.5	69.0	67
1932	41.0	59.5	54.0	49.0	46
1933	42.5	59.5	49.5	50.5	43
1934	50.5	68.5	59.5	58.5	60
1935	70.5	77.5	79.0	74.0	67
1936	84.5	88.0	75.5	84.5	77
1937	86.0	92.0	81.0	87.5	90
1938					
1939					

# CASH FARM INCOME FROM CROPS, BY GROUPS, AND INCOME OF INDUSTRIAL WORKERS, 1924-37

INDEX NUMBERS (1924-29=100)



NEG. 27014

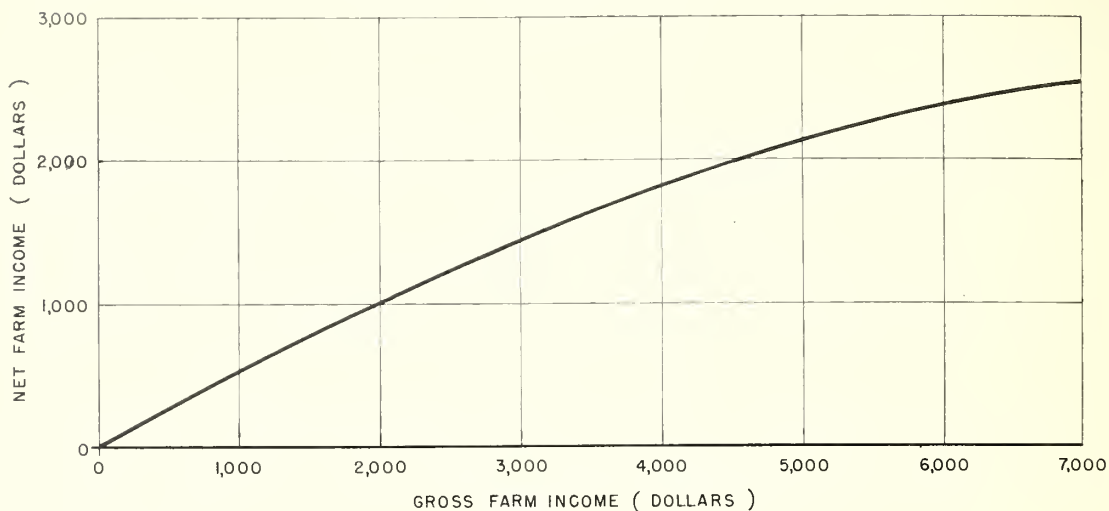
Farmers' income from the sale of some crops such as grains and cotton is not so closely related to the income of industrial workers as is the income from livestock, fruits and vegetables. This is due to a number of conditions, among which are the influence of industrial activity upon manufacturers' demand for raw materials such as cotton, the influence of international conditions on the prices of these commodities, and the effects of changes in the carry-over of relatively non-perishable farm products from one season to another.

Cash farm income from crops, by groups, and income of industrial workers, United States,  
1924-37  
Index numbers (1924-29 = 100)

Year	Grains	Cotton and cottonseed	Fruits and vegetables	All crops	Industrial workers
1924	115.5	109.5	91.5	105.0	95
1925	102.5	116.0	97.5	105.0	99
1926	95.5	80.5	105.5	95.0	101
1927	95.0	99.0	103.5	99.0	100
1928	101.0	95.5	99.5	98.0	100
1929	91.0	99.5	103.0	98.5	106
1930	62.0	54.5	94.0	73.5	87
1931	37.0	32.5	68.0	47.5	67
1932	24.0	30.5	49.5	36.5	46
1933	36.5	38.0	59.0	47.0	48
1934	40.5	57.0	67.0	56.0	60
1935	38.5	47.0	70.0	54.5	67
1936	53.0	59.5	80.0	67.0	77
1937	69.0	57.0	88.5	75.0	90
1938					
1939					

# NET FARM INCOME AS RELATED TO GROSS INCOME

FARM FAMILIES IN LANCASTER COUNTY, PA., 1935-36



SOURCE OF DATA: CONSUMER PURCHASES STUDY

U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF HOME ECONOMICS  
NEG 25

## Net farm income as related to gross income, 1935-36

For one general farming area (Lancaster County, Pennsylvania) this chart shows how the average net farm income increased as gross farm income rose from about \$100 to \$7,000. Families were classified by gross farm income; for each income class average net farm income was obtained. Thus, when the gross farm income was between \$1,250 and \$1,500 (averaging \$1,448), the average net farm income was \$747.

The relation between net and gross farm income shown in this chart cannot be used to estimate the net farm income of a particular family. It gives only the average net farm income for a large number of families that had approximately the same gross farm income.

The relation between net and gross farm income is not the same for all regions or all types of farming. In the table below are shown figures for four different farm areas that provide for each the necessary information for making estimates of average net farm income from gross farm income.

Because farm expenses took a larger proportion of gross farm income at the higher than at the lower income levels, net farm income increased less rapidly than gross. Net farm income averaged \$193 or 49 percent of gross income when the latter averaged \$394, and \$2,564, or 37 percent when average gross income stood at \$6,998.

## Net farm income as related to gross income in four localities, 1935-36

Gross farm income class	Vermont		Pennsylvania		Washington		Southern California	
	Average gross income	Average net farm income	Average gross income	Average net farm income	Average gross income	Average net farm income	Average gross income	Average net farm income
\$0 - \$249	\$ 175	\$ 14	\$187	\$31	\$202	\$97	\$ 212	\$-142
250 - 499	448	206	394	193	384	243	398	-109
500 - 749	666	350	625	318	623	366	634	23
750 - 999	935	470	897	476	895	556	886	211
1,000 - 1,249	1,163	597	1,149	621	1,135	703	1,139	261
1,250 - 1,499	1,424	711	1,448	747	1,394	843	1,361	415
1,500 - 1,749	1,667	782	1,649	865	1,624	935	1,700	511
1,750 - 1,999	1,885	806	1,889	907	1,914	1,169	1,882	672
2,000 - 2,249	2,147	927	2,169	1,049	2,175	1,244	2,121	733
2,250 - 2,499	2,446	1,061	2,449	1,178	2,376	1,286	2,386	968
2,500 - 2,999	2,776	1,126	2,830	1,357	2,834	1,400	2,742	1,091
3,000 - 3,999	3,524	1,597	3,538	1,562	3,390	1,650	3,452	1,290
4,000 - 4,999	4,426	1,604	4,561	1,992	4,457	2,146	4,590	1,839
5,000 and over	6,897	2,112	6,998	2,564	8,578	3,316	10,016	3,823

Source: Consumer Purchases Study

Bureau of Home Economics



Sample selected in a 1935-36 Study of Consumer Purchases to represent regionalized types of farming in the United States

An extensive study of 1935-36 farm family expenditures for living, by income, has been made by the Bureau of Home Economics in 64 counties selected to represent specific type-of-farming areas. In these areas conditions favored specialization and incomes therefore were probably better-than-average for the State. An exception to this is the

self-sufficing area in Western North Carolina where farm incomes probably were below average for the State. Families of white farm operators were studied exclusively except in the Southeast, where Negro as well as white families, and sharecroppers as well as operators were included.

State	Counties <sup>1/</sup>	Percentage of families <sup>2/</sup> in random sample	Chief type of farming
Vermont.....	Chittenden, Franklin.....	50.0	Dairy
New Jersey.....	Camden, Gloucester, Salem.....	100.0	Truck
Pennsylvania.....	Lancaster.....	37.5	General
Ohio.....	Crawford, Knox, Richland.....	25.0	General
Illinois.....	De Witt, Logan, Macon, Piatt.....	25.0	Corn or cash grain
Michigan.....	Lenawee.....	75.0	Dairy and general
Wisconsin.....	Dane.....	50.0	Dairy
Iowa.....	Madison, Mahaska, Marion, Marshall, Poweshiek.....	25.0	Animal specialty
North Dakota.....	Barnes, Cass, Griggs, Steele.....	50.0	Wheat or cash grain
Kansas.....	Edwards, Ford, Gray, Meade.....	50.0	Wheat or cash grain
North Carolina.....	Jackson, Macon.....	50.0	Self-sufficing
South Carolina.....	Edgecombe, Nash.....	37.5	Cotton and tobacco
Georgia.....	Clarendon, Darlington, Florence, Lee, Marion, Sumter.....	50.0	Cotton
Mississippi.....	Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Madison, Morgan, Oconee, Wilkes.....	25.0	Cotton
Montana, South Dakota, Colorado.....	Bolivar, Leflore, Sunflower, Washington.....	50.0	Range livestock and cash grain
Washington.....	Custer, Montana; Pennington, South Dakota; Eagle, Garfield, Rio Blanco, Colorado.....	100.0	Dairy and poultry
Oregon.....	Whatcom.....	100.0	General and fruit
California.....	Marion, Polk.....	25.0	Fruit and dairy
California.....	San Joaquin.....	100.0	Fruit and nut
California.....	Orange, Riverside.....	100.0	

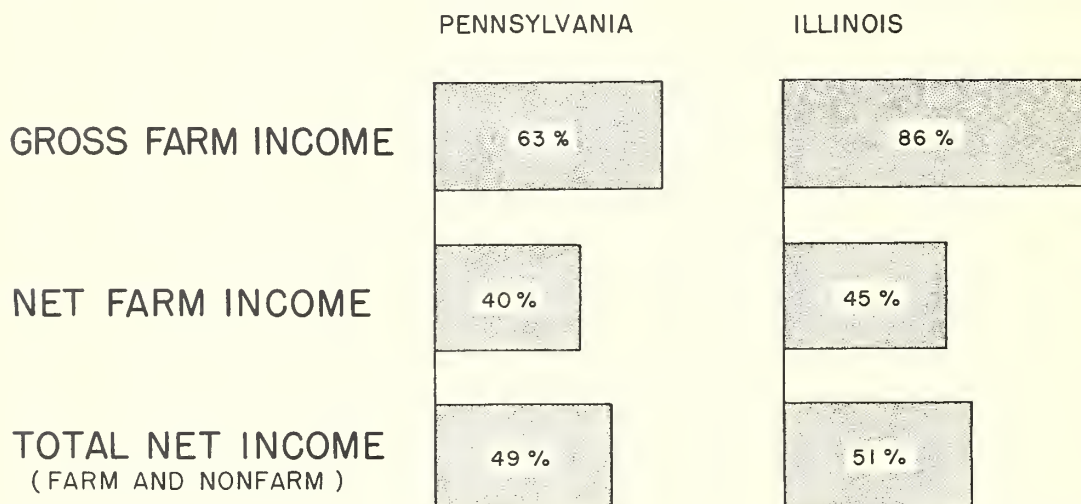
1/ In a few counties certain minor civil divisions were omitted because of topography or population characteristics.

2/ Of the families in the random sample, information on income was obtained only from families that (1) included a husband and wife, both native born, who had been married one year or more; (2) had resided on and operated the same farm for at least one year; (3) were willing and able to give information requested.

Information on expenditures was obtained only from families that met the requirements listed above and, in addition, (1) had not received relief during the year; (2) included 0 to 6 other persons besides the husband and wife; (3) met certain specifications regarding maximum number of guests, roomers, and boarders in household.

# FAMILIES HAVING GROSS FARM INCOME, NET FARM INCOME, OR TOTAL NET INCOME OF \$1,500 AND OVER

FARM FAMILIES IN SELECTED COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA AND ILLINOIS, 1935-36



SOURCE OF DATA CONSUMER PURCHASES STUDY

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF HOME ECONOMICS  
NEG 28

Families having gross farm income, net farm income, or total net income of \$1,500 and over  
Farm families in selected counties, Pennsylvania and Illinois, 1935-36

Gross farm income is only a rough index of the amount of money available for family living. When farm operating expenses have been deducted from gross income, the apparent economic status of the family may be considerably altered. Thus, in Lancaster Co., Pa., 63 percent of the families studied had gross farm incomes of \$1,500 and over, but the net farm incomes of only 40 percent were as high as \$1,500. In selected counties in Illinois 86 percent of the families studied had gross incomes and 45 percent had net farm incomes of \$1,500 and over.

In many families there is additional income from nonfarm sources, so that total net family

income may be somewhat higher than net farm income. Supplements of this kind brought the total net family income of 9 percent of the Pennsylvania group and 6 percent of the Illinois group from under \$1,500 to \$1,500 or over. As a result, 49 percent of the Pennsylvania families and 51 percent of the Illinois families had net family incomes as high as \$1,500.

The table below shows for four farming areas the percentage distribution of families into 15 income classes on the basis of gross farm income, net farm income, and total net family income.

Percentage of families in selected localities with gross farm income, net farm income, and total net family income within specified classes, 1935-36

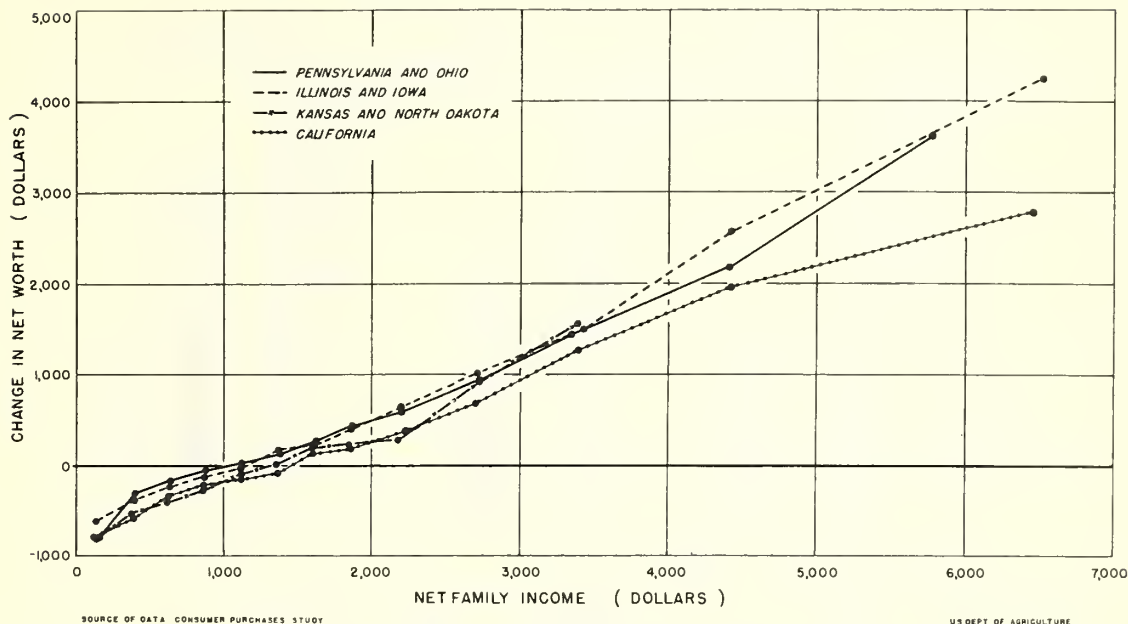
Income class	Pennsylvania			Illinois			Kansas			Central California		
	Gross farm income	Net farm income	Total net family income	Gross farm income	Net farm income	Total net family income	Gross farm income	Net farm income	Total net family income	Gross farm income	Net farm income	Total net family income
All incomes	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Negative	0.0	1.5	0.3	0.2	1.4	0.6	0.0	9.0	6.9	0.0	3.0	1.1
\$0 - \$249	5.4	6.8	0.9	0.4	1.1	0.4	1.0	9.2	6.5	4.8	10.1	1.9
250 - 499	7.1	10.5	4.4	1.5	3.8	2.6	3.2	16.6	14.7	5.9	11.5	5.2
500 - 749	6.4	12.1	9.6	1.8	7.2	5.9	6.2	16.6	14.9	4.1	8.9	9.3
750 - 999	6.2	10.5	12.4	2.5	12.4	11.4	10.0	16.3	16.3	6.3	13.8	13.7
1,000 - 1,249	6.3	10.3	11.8	3.6	14.2	14.2	12.0	9.2	12.0	5.9	11.5	10.8
1,250 - 1,499	5.5	8.5	12.0	3.7	14.8	13.9	14.1	7.5	8.9	6.7	8.2	11.2
1,500 - 1,749	5.8	8.9	11.3	4.6	11.9	13.0	10.9	4.5	5.4	9.3	9.3	9.7
1,750 - 1,999	5.1	7.6	8.8	5.5	9.4	8.9	7.5	2.8	3.7	5.6	5.9	8.9
2,000 - 2,249	4.7	6.6	7.3	6.8	5.6	6.9	5.7	1.7	3.2	6.7	3.7	5.2
2,250 - 2,499	5.4	3.9	5.4	6.5	4.7	5.5	5.0	1.0	1.7	4.8	3.7	4.5
2,500 - 2,999	8.1	5.7	6.9	12.9	6.2	7.6	7.2	2.7	2.2	7.9	0.7	4.8
3,000 - 3,999	13.4	5.3	6.5	20.6	5.0	5.8	8.5	2.0	2.5	9.3	4.5	7.4
4,000 - 4,999	9.7	1.3	1.4	12.8	1.1	1.3	3.7	0.2	0.3	7.4	2.6	3.3
5,000 and over	10.9	0.5	1.0	16.6	1.2	2.0	5.0	0.7	0.8	15.3	2.6	3.0

Source: Consumer Purchases Study

Bureau of Home Economics

# RELATION BETWEEN FAMILY INCOME AND CHANGE IN NET WORTH

FARM FAMILIES IN FOUR SELECTED AREAS, 1935-36



Relation between total net family income and change in net worth  
4 selected farm areas, 1935-36

The relation between net farm family income and the average change in net worth varies somewhat with the type of farming and geographic area. When incomes are low, the average value of family living exceeds the average family income and the average change in net worth is negative. Families are forced to increase their liabilities or decrease their assets.

The general pattern in 1935-36 was similar in all regions. Usually the income point at which the average change in net worth crossed from a negative to a positive value was at approximately \$1,000. In a few regions, as California, this point was as high as \$1,500.

In income classes under \$1,000 the value of home-produced goods represents a large share of family income. Therefore, a large number of farm families which nearly balance income and expenditures have money incomes much below \$1,000.

The ratio of average change in net worth to average family income increases rapidly with income. For the Pennsylvania-Ohio area, at incomes \$1,000-1,249, average surplus was 2 percent of average family income in 1935-36; at incomes of \$2,500-2,999 it was 34 percent of the family income, and in the highest income class it was 63.

Relation between family income and change in net worth, by income class, in selected farm areas, 1935-36

Income class	Pennsylvania and Ohio		Illinois and Iowa		Kansas and North Dakota		California	
	Family income	Change in net worth	Family income	Change in net worth	Family income	Change in net worth	Family income	Change in net worth
\$0 - \$249	\$ 164	-\$798	\$ 148	-\$622	\$ 150	-\$808	\$ 123	-\$795
250 - 499	402	- 304	400	- 387	381	- 535	392	- 585
500 - 749	638	- 165	634	- 245	624	- 404	631	- 347
750 - 999	881	- 51	877	- 126	868	- 281	874	- 240
1,000 - 1,249	1,127	26	1,112	- 38	1,122	- 99	1,123	- 151
1,250 - 1,499	1,376	122	1,371	163	1,363	21	1,373	- 92
1,500 - 1,749	1,625	257	1,616	229	1,608	209	1,613	129
1,750 - 1,999	1,870	411	1,874	423	1,850	232	1,868	181
2,000 - 2,499	2,211	590	2,215	650	2,184	283	2,236	375
2,500 - 2,999	2,738	951	2,722	1,021	2,735	947	2,712	681
3,000 - 3,999	3,358	1,449	3,439	1,509	3,407	1,560	3,412	1,161
4,000 - 4,999	4,424	2,182	4,442	2,576	-	-	4,438	1,962
5,000 - 9,999	5,795	3,638	6,544	4,257	-	-	6,472	2,800

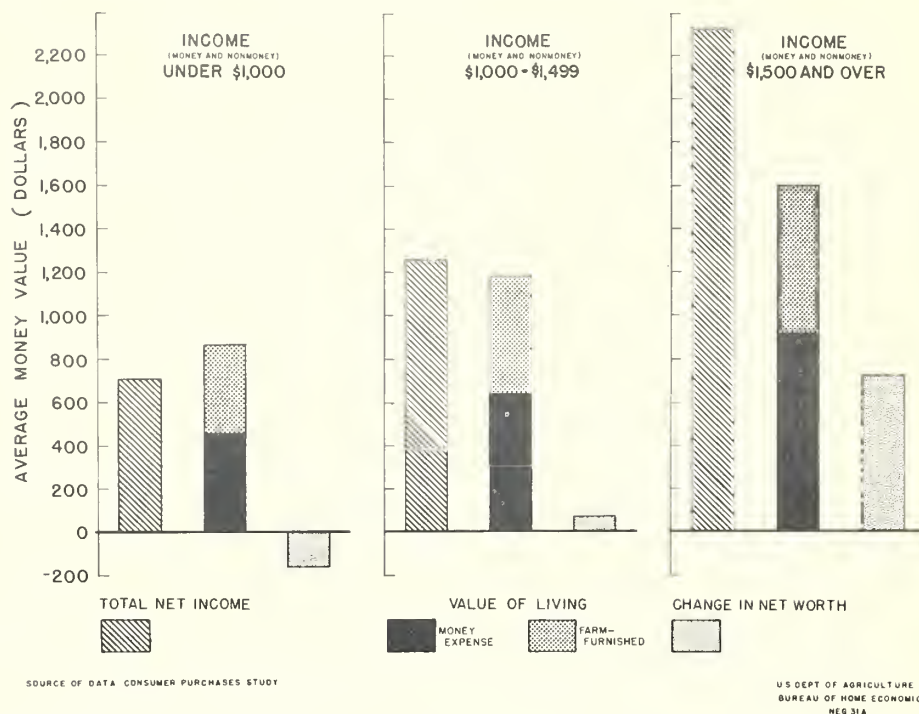
Source: Consumer Purchases Study

Bureau of Home Economics



# AVERAGE TOTAL NET INCOME, VALUE OF LIVING, AND CHANGE IN NET WORTH, BY INCOME CLASS

FARM FAMILIES IN SELECTED COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA AND OHIO, 1935-36



Average total net income, value of living, and change in net worth, by income class  
Farm families in selected counties, Pennsylvania and Ohio, 1935-36

Farm families in selected counties in Pennsylvania and Ohio in 1935-36 with net money and nonmoney incomes under \$1,000 had an average deficit or decrease in net worth of \$160. The value of family living, composed of money expenditures and value of farm-furnished goods, exceeded family money and nonmoney income for more than half of the families.

Families with incomes \$1,000 or more had an average surplus. When incomes were between \$1,000 and \$1,500, the average value of family living was nearly equal to average family income and the increase in net worth was small. When incomes were \$1,500 and over the average surplus was 45 percent of the value of family living.

Average total net income, value of living, and change in net worth, by income class  
Farm families in selected counties, Pennsylvania and Ohio, 1935-36

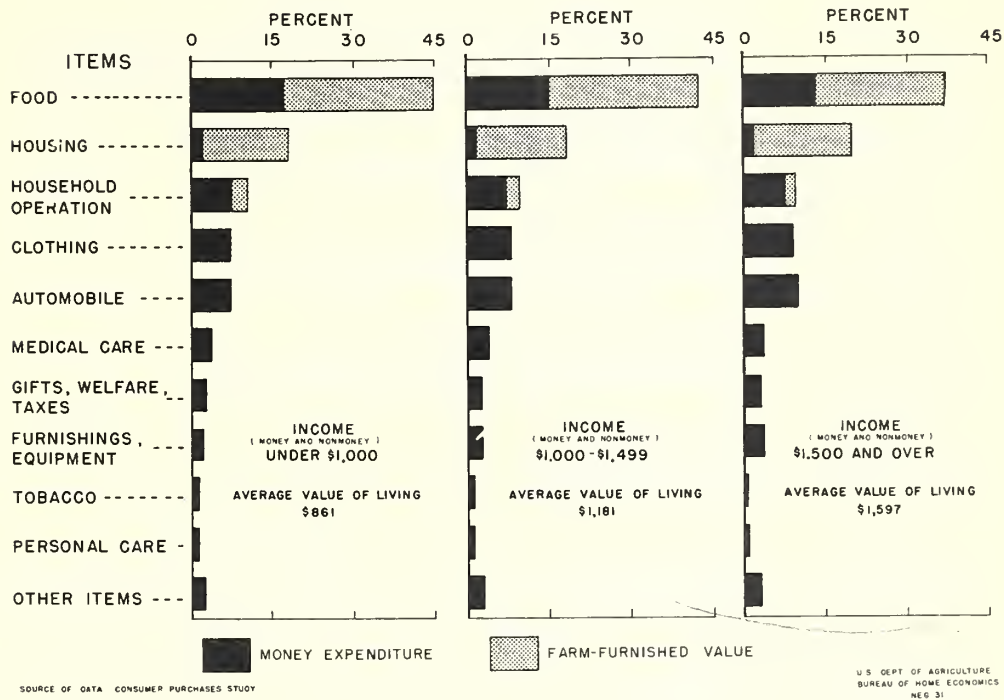
Item	Income under \$1,000		Income \$1,000 - 1,499		Income \$1,500 and over	
	Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent
Total net family income (money and nonmoney)...	701	100.0	1,255	100.0	2,317	100.0
Change in net worth.....	-160	-22.8	74	5.9	720	31.1
Value of family living:						
Total.....	861	122.8	1,181	94.1	1,597	68.9
Expenditures.....	458	65.3	637	50.8	917	39.6
Farm-furnished value.....	403	57.5	544	43.3	680	29.3

Source: Consumer Purchases Study

Bureau of Home Economics

# AVERAGE VALUE OF LIVING BY INCOME CLASS: PERCENTAGES TAKEN BY SPECIFIED GROUPS OF ITEMS

FARM FAMILIES IN SELECTED COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA AND OHIO, 1935-36



Average value of living, by income class: Value and percentages represented by specified groups of items  
Farm families in selected counties, Pennsylvania and Ohio, 1935-36

Average value of living of farm families increases as income rises, but not proportionally. Well-to-do families spend relatively less of their incomes and save relatively more than families with limited means. In selected counties of Pennsylvania and Ohio in 1935-36, among families with incomes under \$1,000 (average, \$701) average value of living was \$861; among those with incomes of \$1,500 and over (average, \$2,317) average value of living was \$1,597. While average income more than trebled, average value of living did not double.

Food, bought and home-produced, ranked in value above all other items of living. Value of occupancy of the farm home ranked second. Household operation ranked third for the low and intermediate income groups; but for the high, the automobile was third and household operation, fourth. The average money value of each item of living was greater among high-income families than among the others. However, food represented only 37 percent of their total value of living compared with 44 percent of that of the low-income group.

Average value of living, by income class: Value and percentages represented by specified groups of items  
Farm families in selected counties, Pennsylvania and Ohio, 1935-36

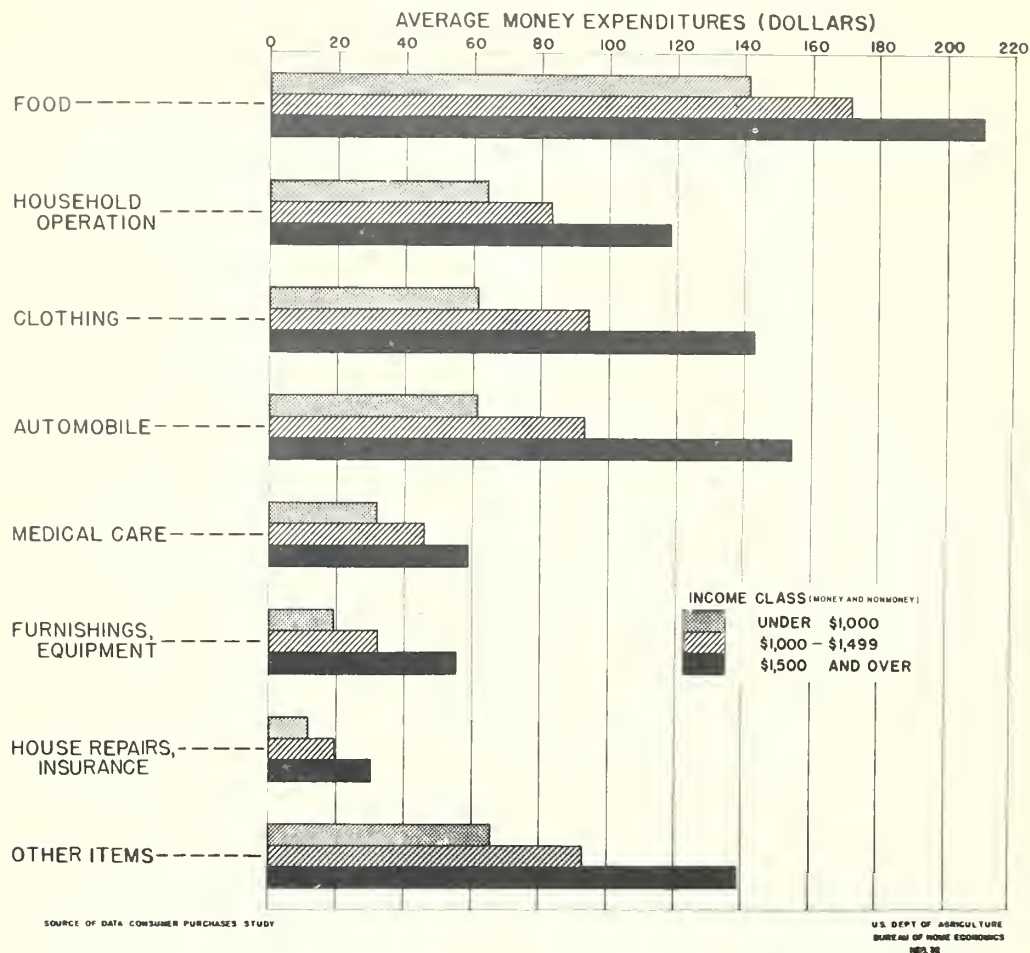
Item	Money and nonmoney income class of-					
	Under \$1,000 (average, \$701)		\$1,000-1,499 (average, \$1,255)		\$1,500 and over (average, \$2,317)	
	Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent
Value of family living: Total.....	861	100.0	1,181	100.0	1,597	100.0
Food: Total value.....	380	44.2	496	42.0	584	36.6
Expenditures.....	142	16.5	174	14.7	212	13.3
Farm-furnished value.....	238	27.7	322	27.3	372	23.5
Housing: Total value.....	151	17.5	212	18.0	312	19.6
Expenditures (repairs, insurance).....	12	1.4	19	1.6	30	1.9
Farm-furnished value.....	139	16.1	193	16.4	282	17.7
Household operation: Total value.....	90	10.4	113	9.5	146	9.1
Expenditures.....	64	7.4	84	7.1	120	7.5
Farm-furnished value.....	26	3.0	29	2.4	26	1.6
Clothing.....	62	7.2	95	8.1	144	9.0
Automobile for family use.....	62	7.2	93	7.9	157	9.8
Medical care.....	32	3.7	46	3.9	59	3.7
Gifts, community welfare, selected taxes.....	21	2.5	31	2.6	51	3.2
Furnishings, equipment.....	19	2.2	33	2.7	56	3.5
Tobacco.....	11	1.3	12	1.0	13	0.8
Personal care.....	11	1.2	14	1.2	17	1.1
Other items: Total.....	22	2.6	36	3.1	58	3.6
Recreation.....	9	1.1	16	1.4	24	1.5
Reading.....	6	0.7	7	0.6	9	0.5
Travel and transportation (not by automobile).....	2	.2	2	.2	6	.4
Education.....	2	.2	5	.4	11	.7
Other items.....	3	.4	6	.5	8	.5

Source: Consumer Purchases Study

Bureau of Home Economics

# AVERAGE MONEY EXPENDITURES FOR FAMILY LIVING, BY INCOME CLASS

## FARM FAMILIES IN SELECTED COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA AND OHIO, 1935-36



Average money expenditures for family living, by income class  
Farm families in selected counties, Pennsylvania and Ohio,  
1935-36

Money expenditures for farm family living in selected counties of Pennsylvania and Ohio averaged \$458 in 1935-36 for families with incomes (money and nonmoney) under \$1,000, and \$917, about twice as much, for families with incomes of \$1,500 or more.

Expenditures for food averaged \$142 in the lowest of the three income classes, and \$212 in the highest—an increase of 50 percent. Expenditures for household operation and medical care

were about twice as high in the highest income class as in the lowest. Expenditures for clothing, for the family's share in the use of the automobile, and for furnishings and equipment were more than twice as high.

Food took more of the money for family living than did any other item. Expenditures for house operation, clothing, and the family car came next. Together these four consumption groups account for about 70 percent of expenditures for family living in all three income classes.

Average money expenditures for family living and percentage spent for specified items, by income class  
Farm families in selected counties, Pennsylvania and Ohio, 1935-36

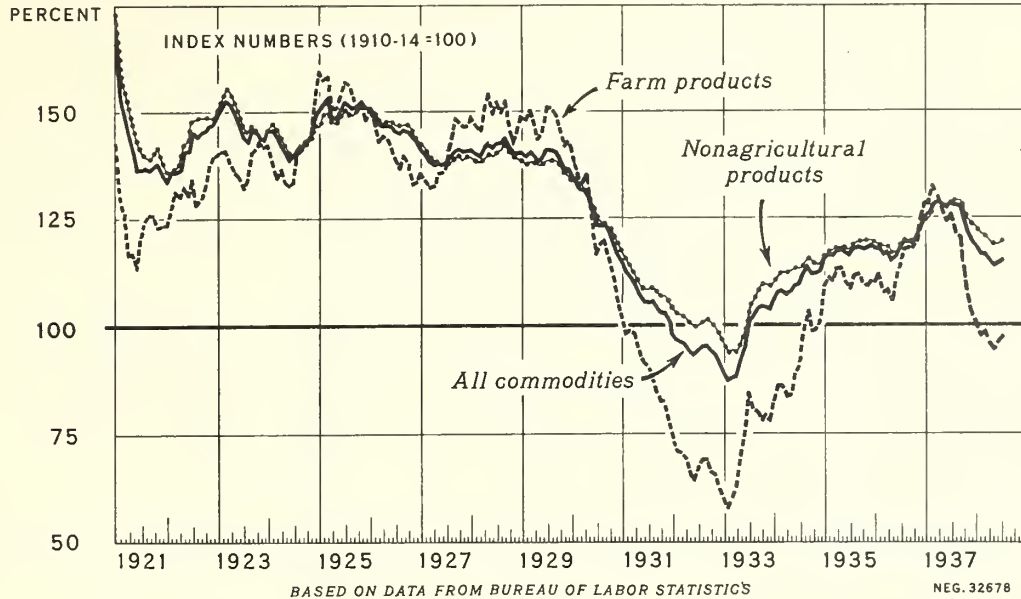
Item	Average money expenditures					
	Income under \$1,000		Income \$1,000-1,499		Income \$1,500 and over	
	Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent
All items .....	458	100.0	637	100.0	917	100.0
Food .....	142	31.1	174	27.3	212	23.1
Household operation ..	64	13.9	84	13.2	120	13.1
Clothing .....	62	13.6	95	15.0	144	15.7
Automobile .....	62	13.5	93	14.6	157	17.1
Medical care .....	32	6.9	46	7.2	59	6.4
Furnishings, equipment	19	4.2	33	5.1	56	6.1
Housing .....	12	2.6	19	3.0	30	3.3
Other items .....	65	14.2	93	14.6	139	15.2

Source: Consumer Purchases Study

Bureau of Home Economics



# WHOLESALE PRICES OF FARM AND NONAGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND OF ALL COMMODITIES, 1921-38



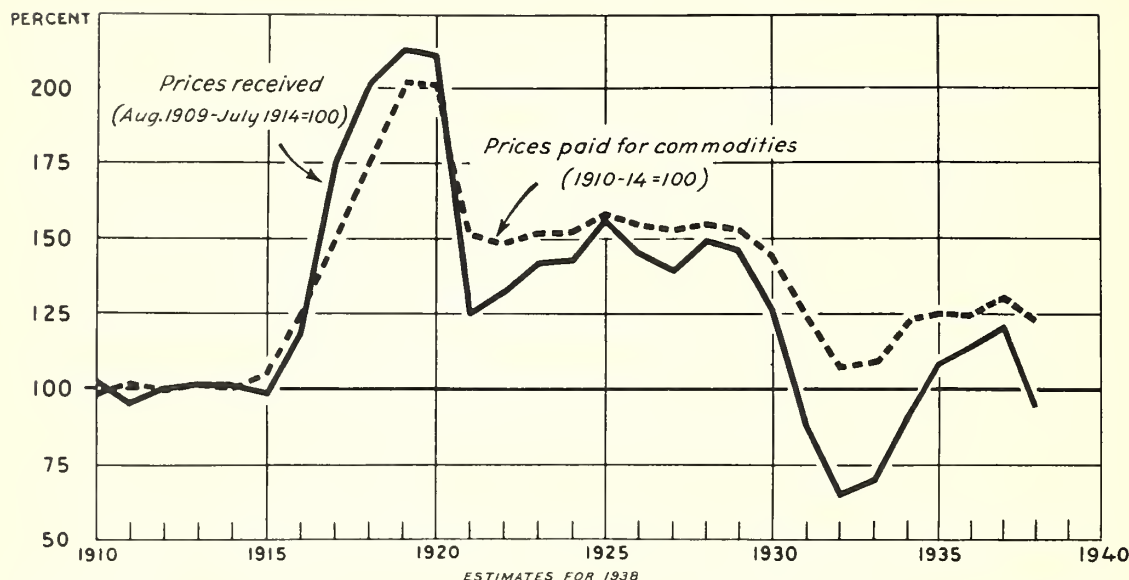
During the depression which began in 1929, wholesale prices of farm products in the United States declined faster and farther than wholesale prices of nonagricultural products, but regained approximately their pre-war and pre-depression relationships in early 1937, following the general rise which started in 1933. Since the early part of 1937 prices of farm products have declined sharply, much more than the prices of nonagricultural products. This has increased the disparity between prices of farm and nonagricultural products, which nearly always is the case during years of industrial recession and falling prices. The disparity tends to narrow in years of increasing business activity and rising prices, since the increased demand results in higher prices for a relatively fixed volume of agricultural production, whereas it brings a larger output of nonagricultural products which sell for relatively inflexible prices.

Wholesale prices of farm and nonagricultural products and of all commodities, 1921-38  
Index numbers (1910-14 = 100)

Month	Farm	Nonagri-	All com-	Farm	Nonagri-	All com-	Farm	Nonagri-	All com-	Farm	Nonagri-	All com-	Farm	Nonagri-	All com-	Farm	Nonagri-	All com-
	products	products	products	products	products	products	products	products	products	products	products	products	products	products	products	products	products	products
Jan.	142.5	173.9	166.4	121.4	136.4	133.4	139.7	151.7	148.9	142.2	146.5	159.6	147.7	150.2	147.7	150.2	147.7	150.2
Feb.	139.0	171.4	151.1	131.4	136.3	135.6	140.7	151.9	148.8	141.9	146.5	157.6	150.2	151.6	147.9	150.2	147.9	150.2
Mar.	126.1	156.7	145.5	131.0	137.0	135.6	140.5	156.1	152.6	134.2	146.7	143.8	156.2	150.7	152.1	148.3	148.8	152.1
Apr.	116.1	153.2	144.4	129.9	138.1	136.1	135.7	155.7	151.7	136.5	147.9	146.0	150.9	148.3	148.8	148.3	148.8	148.8
May	116.5	148.0	140.4	132.2	143.0	140.7	135.6	152.7	148.8	133.4	142.2	140.0	150.5	148.0	148.1	148.0	148.1	148.1
June	113.0	146.6	136.4	130.2	141.9	140.6	139.6	149.9	146.4	132.3	140.4	138.5	151.3	149.6	150.4	149.6	150.4	150.4
July	121.7	141.0	136.4	134.1	148.6	145.1	131.6	147.3	143.6	138.3	140.0	136.6	151.2	151.0	152.3	151.0	152.3	152.3
Aug.	124.7	140.1	136.5	127.9	149.0	143.9	134.4	145.3	142.8	143.1	141.5	141.6	156.5	150.2	151.7	150.2	151.7	151.7
Sept.	125.8	139.7	136.4	129.6	149.6	145.0	140.3	147.3	145.5	140.8	142.1	141.8	154.3	150.2	150.9	150.2	150.9	150.9
Oct.	125.8	141.2	137.4	132.1	149.6	145.4	141.1	146.5	146.1	144.7	141.1	141.4	150.1	151.7	151.2	151.7	151.2	151.2
Nov.	122.9	142.2	137.5	137.2	149.6	146.7	142.6	144.0	143.6	145.7	144.4	144.7	151.6	152.9	152.6	152.9	152.6	152.6
Dec.	123.7	139.6	135.6	132.1	149.5	147.0	141.7	143.9	143.2	141.9	147.4	148.2	152.0	150.2	150.2	152.0	150.2	150.2
Jan.	150.6	151.6	150.7	135.3	142.8	140.9	148.8	139.9	140.7	148.5	139.0	141.7	134.4	135.0	134.4	135.0	134.4	135.0
Feb.	147.4	150.1	148.9	133.8	142.1	139.9	140.6	139.3	139.9	147.8	138.2	137.4	133.3	133.4	133.3	133.4	133.3	133.4
Mar.	142.6	148.6	146.9	132.1	140.4	148.2	145.2	139.0	139.4	150.4	139.0	140.3	132.8	132.1	131.7	131.7	131.7	131.7
Apr.	144.2	147.7	146.4	132.3	139.3	137.4	150.9	139.7	141.0	147.1	134.7	139.4	134.4	131.6	131.4	131.6	131.4	131.4
May	143.6	146.3	146.7	135.1	138.6	137.5	150.0	140.7	142.3	141.7	137.9	136.2	130.4	130.2	129.6	130.4	130.2	129.6
June	141.5	146.0	146.6	135.3	138.7	137.4	149.6	140.7	141.2	144.9	136.5	139.0	124.7	127.9	126.7	124.7	127.9	126.7
July	138.3	147.7	146.3	136.9	138.7	137.7	152.2	140.9	142.2	150.9	139.4	146.9	116.5	125.3	123.2	116.5	125.3	123.2
Aug.	136.3	147.4	144.7	143.5	138.4	139.0	149.9	141.6	142.5	150.8	139.1	140.6	119.1	124.6	123.1	119.1	124.6	123.1
Sept.	139.3	147.7	146.5	146.5	139.7	140.6	152.6	143.0	141.9	149.5	139.1	140.3	119.6	124.7	123.2	119.6	124.7	123.2
Oct.	137.3	147.7	146.1	147.3	140.6	141.0	146.0	141.2	141.2	145.9	136.1	138.6	115.7	123.1	121.2	115.7	123.1	121.2
Nov.	132.8	147.0	147.6	146.3	140.1	140.6	142.5	140.1	139.9	141.8	136.0	136.5	111.2	120.9	118.7	111.2	120.9	118.7
Dec.	133.1	145.9	146.9	146.4	140.3	140.7	145.3	139.6	142.9	142.9	135.6	136.2	105.5	119.3	116.2	105.5	119.3	116.2
Jan.	102.5	111.5	111.2	74.1	104.1	98.2	59.7	90.1	89.1	82.3	111.1	105.4	106.8	116.9	115.0	106.8	116.9	115.0
Feb.	98.3	115.9	112.1	71.0	103.1	96.8	57.4	94.4	87.3	86.0	111.7	107.4	110.9	117.6	116.1	110.9	117.6	116.1
Mar.	99.0	114.4	110.9	70.4	102.7	96.4	60.0	94.5	87.9	86.0	112.9	107.6	109.8	117.8	115.9	109.8	117.8	115.9
Apr.	98.3	112.1	109.2	69.0	102.1	95.6	62.4	94.6	88.2	83.6	112.9	107.0	112.8	116.4	116.3	112.8	116.4	116.3
May	96.1	110.4	106.9	65.8	100.9	94.0	70.4	94.9	91.5	81.6	113.5	107.6	113.0	116.5	117.1	113.0	116.5	117.1
June	91.7	108.7	105.3	64.1	100.4	93.3	74.6	99.9	94.9	88.8	113.9	108.9	109.8	118.5	116.5	109.8	118.5	116.5
July	91.0	108.9	105.1	67.2	100.7	94.2	84.3	104.7	100.6	90.5	113.9	109.2	108.1	118.2	115.9	108.1	118.2	115.9
Aug.	89.1	109.5	105.3	68.3	101.5	95.2	80.8	106.7	101.5	97.9	115.3	111.5	111.2	119.4	117.5	111.2	119.4	117.5
Sept.	88.9	108.7	105.9	68.9	101.8	95.3	79.9	109.7	103.4	102.9	115.3	113.3	111.5	119.7	117.8	113.3	119.7	117.8
Oct.	82.5	107.6	102.8	65.8	100.9	94.0	78.1	110.2	103.9	99.0	115.0	111.7	109.7	119.9	117.5	109.7	119.9	117.5
Nov.	82.3	107.6	102.5	65.5	100.0	93.3	79.4	109.9	103.5	99.7	115.1	111.7	108.7	120.1	117.7	108.7	120.1	117.7
Dec.	78.1	105.6	100.1	61.7	98.8	91.4	77.8	102.6	103.4	101.0	115.1	112.1	107.8	120.4	118.1	107.8	120.4	118.1
Jan.	109.7	119.9	117.7	128.1	128.3	128.4	100.4	122.7	118.1	118.1	118.1	118.1	118.1	118.1	118.1	118.1	118.1	118.1
Feb.	111.5	119.6	117.7	126.2	128.9	126.0	97.9	121.3	116.5	116.5	116.5	116.5	116.5	116.5	116.5	116.5	116.5	116.5
Mar.	107.3	118.8	116.2	132.0	127.9	128.2	98.6	120.9	116.4	116.4	116.4	116.4	116.4	116.4	116.4	116.4	116.4	116.4
Apr.	107.9	118.6	116.4	129.3	128.4	128.7	99.3	119.7	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9
May	105.5	117.3	114.7	125.0	128.4	127.6	94.7	119.0	114.0	114.0	114.0	114.0	114.0	114.0	114.0	114.0	114.0	114.0
June	109.5	117.6	115.6	124.1	128.6	127.3	96.4	119.0	114.3	114.3	114.3	114.3	114.3	114.3	114.3	114.3	114.3	114.3
July	114.0	119.0	117.5	125.2	129.6	128.1	97.3	113.7	115.0	115.0	115.0	115.0	115.0	115.0	115.0	115.0	115.0	115.0
Aug.	117.5	119.9	119.1	121.2	129.4	127.7	100.0	119.7	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9
Sept.	117.8	119.9	119.1	120.5	129.8	127.6	100.0	119.7	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9
Oct.	117.8	119.9	119.0	112.4	128.0	124.7	100.0	119.7	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9
Nov.	119.4	121.0	120.3	105.2	125.6	121.6	100.0	119.7	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9
Dec.	124.1	127.1	122.2	102.1	123.7	119.3	100.0	119.7	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9

Bureau of Agricultural Economics.  
Based on Bureau of Labor Statistics index numbers.

## PRICES RECEIVED AND PAID BY FARMERS, INDEX NUMBERS, 1910-38



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 18350

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

## Prices received and paid by farmers, 1910 to date

Prices received by farmers for their products fluctuate with general business conditions more markedly than do the prices paid for the commodities they buy. In January 1937, for the first time since 1925, the buying power per unit of farm products (the ratio of prices received to prices paid by farmers) was above that of 1910-14.

There was a marked downward trend in prices received during the latter half of 1937 and the first half of 1938, accompanied by a relatively small decline in the prices paid by farmers for commodities. By May and June 1938 the purchasing power per unit of farm products stood at 74 percent of the pre-war average.

Prices received and paid by farmers, 1910 to date: Index numbers, 1910-14 = 100

Calendar year	Prices		Ratio
	Received <sup>1/</sup>	Paid <sup>2/</sup>	
1910.....	102	98	104
1911.....	95	101	94
1912.....	100	100	100
1913.....	101	101	100
1914.....	101	100	101
1925.....	156	157	99
1926.....	145	155	94
1927.....	139	153	91
1928.....	149	155	96
1929.....	146	153	95
1930.....	126	145	87
1931.....	87	124	70
1932.....	65	107	61
1933.....	70	109	64
1934.....	90	123	73
1935.....	108	125	86
1936.....	114	124	92
1937.....	121	130	93
1938.....			
1939.....			

Year and month	Prices		Ratio
	Received 1/	Paid 2/	
1937			
January.....	131	130	101
February....	127	132	96
March.....	128	132	97
April.....	130	134	97
May.....	128	134	96
June.....	124	134	93
July.....	125	133	94
August.....	123	132	93
September...	118	130	91
October.....	112	128	88
November....	107	127	84
December....	104	126	83
1938			
January.....	102	126	81
February....	97	126	77
March.....	96	125	77
April.....	94	125	75
May.....	92	125	74
June.....	92	124	74
July.....	95	3/ 123	3/ 77
August.....	92	3/ 122	3/ 75
September...			
October.....			
November....			
December....			

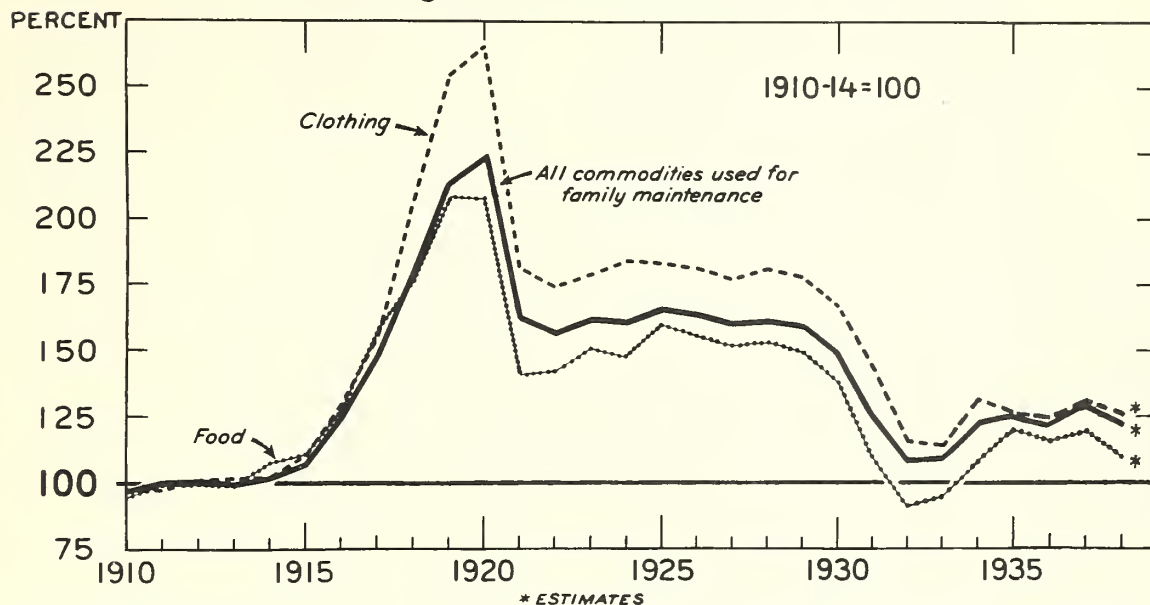
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

<sup>1/</sup> Base period: August 1909-July 1914 = 100.

<sup>2/</sup> These indexes are based on retail prices paid by farmers for commodities used in living and production reported quarterly for March, June, September, and December. The indexes for other months are interpolations between the successive quarterly indexes.

<sup>3/</sup> Preliminary.

## Prices Paid by Farmers for Food, Clothing, and Family Maintenance, 1910-38



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 24214-B

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

### Prices paid by farmers for food, clothing, and family maintenance, 1910 to date

Of the money spent for farm family living a fourth to a third goes for food, a larger proportion than for any other item. Actual expenditures vary greatly according to income level and region of the country. Clothing usually accounts for about a sixth of the total expenditures. Together food and clothing comprise a little less than half of the money spent for family maintenance.

Prices paid by farmers for these items were higher for 1937 than for the previous year. This was caused by a considerable increase in the prices paid during the first half of the year. The commencement of a downward trend was apparent last autumn and it persisted during the first half of 1938. From June 1937 to June 1938 prices paid by farmers for food declined 11 percent, for clothing, 4 percent, and for all commodities used for family living, 5 percent.

### Prices paid by farmers for food, clothing, and all commodities used for family maintenance, 1923 to date: Index numbers, 1910-14 = 100

Calendar year	Food	Clothing	All commodities used for family maintenance
1923.....	150	180	160
1924.....	148	183	159
1925.....	159	182	164
1926.....	155	180	162
1927.....	152	177	159
1928.....	153	181	160
1929.....	149	177	158
1930.....	137	167	148

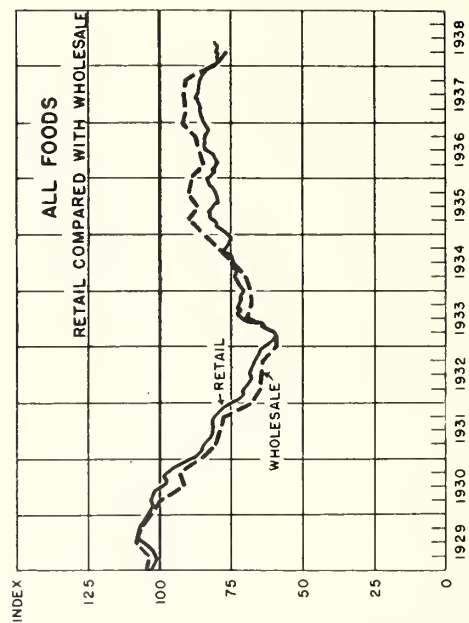
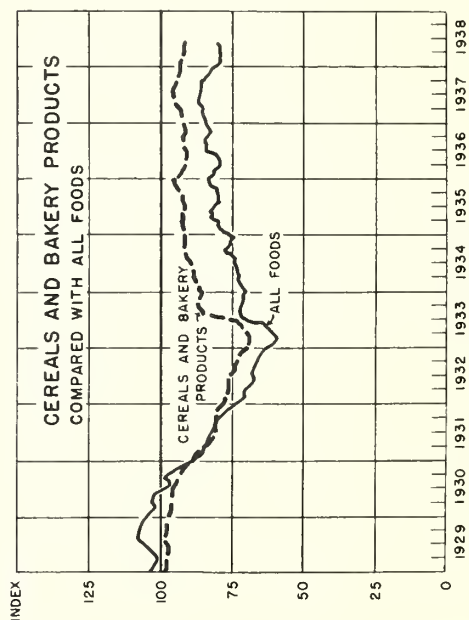
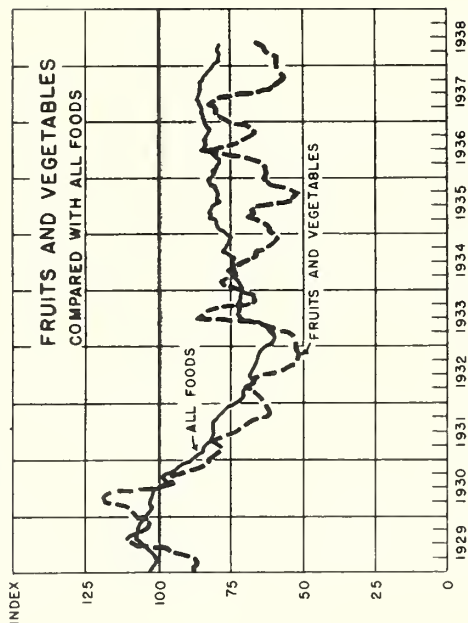
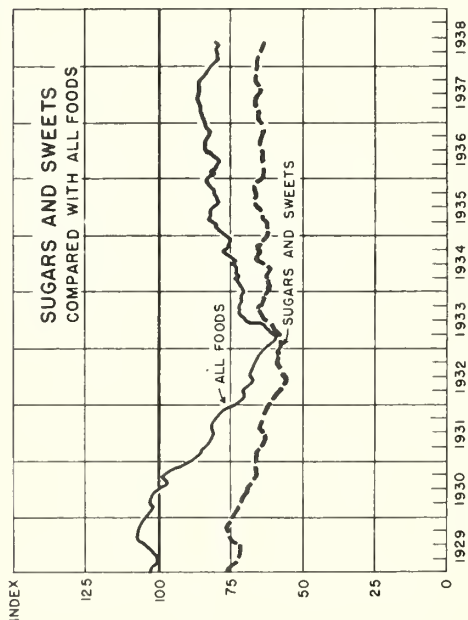
Calendar year	Food	Clothing	All commodities used for family maintenance
1931.....	109	142	126
1932.....	90	115	108
1933.....	95	114	109
1934.....	108	131	122
1935.....	120	126	124
1936.....	116	125	122
1937.....	120	131	128
1938.....			

Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Current data published in monthly release of United States Department of Agriculture on average prices received by farmers for farm products. Prices are collected four times a year and are weighted to give the indexes quoted above.



# RETAIL COST OF FOOD: CEREALS, FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, SUGARS, AND ALL FOODS, 1929 TO DATE

INDEX NUMBERS, 1923-25=100



SOURCE OF DATA: U. S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF HOME ECONOMICS  
NEG. 30

## Cost of food

Food prices tend to follow the general price level during periods of major business recessions and recovery. Since food is comparatively perishable, and its production can be controlled only within broad limits, prices tend to rise and fall with consumer income.

During the last few years the Surplus Commodities Corporation has diverted price-depressing surpluses into noncompetitive channels. This, together with other administrative measures has lessened the decline in some food prices.

The downward trend of food prices in the fall of 1937 was started by a lessened demand. But during the next few months supplies of foods may in some instances influence prices more than probable

changes in the domestic demand situation. Large supplies of many foods are tending to depress prices.

Relative to price levels of 1923-25, retail prices of all major food groups, except cereals and bakery products, and meats have been low most of the time since 1931; with prices of sugar, fruits, and vegetables especially low in 1938.

Trends in wholesale prices of food serve as a means of anticipating trends in retail prices, but the lag between wholesale and retail is less in the case of food than in the case of many less perishable commodities. As a rule small fluctuations in wholesale prices are not reflected in retail prices. A consistent downward or upward trend will finally be reflected as will a sudden marked change.

Retail cost of food: Cereals, fruits and vegetables, sugars, and all foods, 1929 to date  
Index numbers, 1923-25 = 100

Date	Retail 1/				Whole-sale 2/
	Cereals and bakery products	Fruits and vegetables	Sugar and sweets	All foods	All foods
1929					
January.....	98.4	88.2	76.7	102.7	104.4
April.....	98.2	87.3	72.8	100.8	103.3
July.....	97.9	107.2	72.6	106.5	108.7
October.....	98.4	105.5	76.5	107.6	107.0
1930					
January.....	97.3	107.5	74.8	104.6	102.7
April.....	96.7	118.1	71.9	103.3	100.0
July.....	95.6	100.4	69.3	97.5	91.2
October.....	93.1	95.3	66.4	97.8	93.7
1931					
January.....	88.6	83.0	67.1	89.2	85.3
April.....	84.7	79.1	64.5	83.9	80.7
July.....	82.6	73.2	63.7	80.7	78.2
October.....	80.5	63.5	64.3	79.9	77.5
1932					
January.....	78.1	63.2	61.7	72.8	68.4
April.....	76.4	70.5	58.1	70.3	64.5
July.....	75.6	62.4	56.5	68.3	64.4
October.....	73.9	51.3	58.9	66.3	64.0
1933					
January.....	69.5	52.3	58.3	62.6	59.0
April.....	69.8	54.4	58.1	60.1	59.3
July.....	77.8	87.3	62.8	71.0	69.2
October.....	87.2	70.2	65.5	71.6	67.9
1934					
January.....	87.1	74.4	62.4	70.6	68.0
April.....	88.3	75.2	62.6	72.2	70.0
July.....	90.3	68.3	65.6	73.7	74.6
October.....	92.1	62.1	65.8	76.0	79.1
1935					
January.....	92.0	60.8	62.6	77.7	84.5
April.....	92.5	66.6	62.9	81.4	89.3
July.....	92.2	62.6	66.2	80.2	86.8
October.....	93.4	51.7	66.7	79.9	89.9
1936					
January.....	94.0	62.7	64.9	81.7	88.3
April.....	91.2	66.5	63.8	79.7	84.8
July.....	90.7	80.7	64.9	84.0	86.0
October.....	92.3	67.1	64.8	82.8	87.3
1937					
January.....	92.4	74.4	64.8	84.6	92.1
February.....	92.6	78.2	65.6	84.5	92.0
March.....	92.9	80.5	65.6	85.4	92.5
April.....	93.8	80.0	66.0	85.6	90.4
May.....	95.2	83.1	66.1	86.5	89.0
June.....	95.6	79.2	65.7	86.3	89.5
July.....	95.7	69.0	65.1	85.9	91.1
August.....	95.6	61.0	64.8	85.5	91.6
September.....	95.1	59.2	66.5	85.8	93.0
October.....	94.7	56.5	67.4	84.9	90.4
November.....	94.0	56.2	67.1	83.6	87.8
December.....	93.6	58.4	66.8	82.6	84.4
1938					
January.....	93.2	58.8	66.2	80.3	80.7
February.....	93.2	58.8	65.9	78.4	77.7
March.....	92.9	58.5	65.6	78.6	77.7
April.....	92.5	62.4	64.9	79.4	76.4
May.....	92.2	62.5	64.3	79.1	76.2
June.....	91.8	66.0	63.8	80.2	77.3
July.....	91.4	61.7	63.3	80.0	78.6
August.....					
September.....					
October.....					
November.....					
December.....					

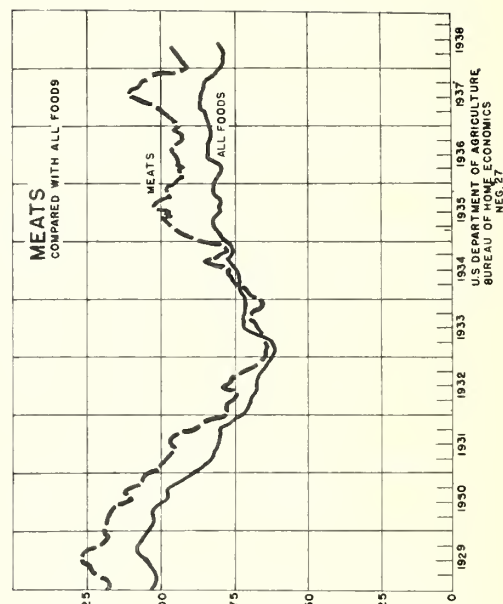
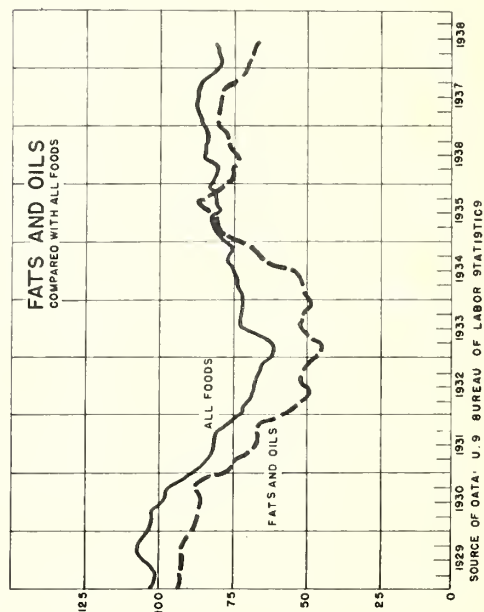
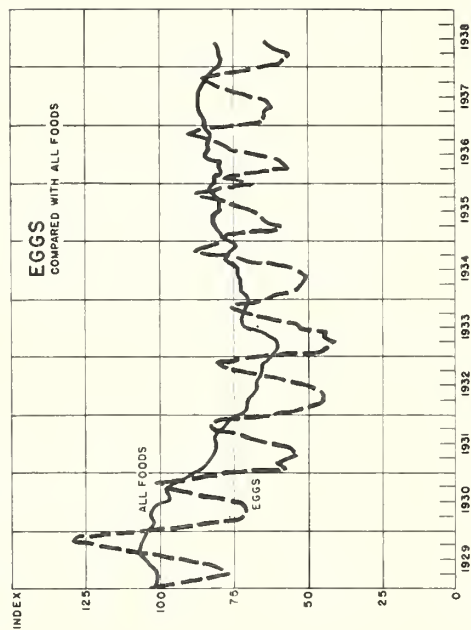
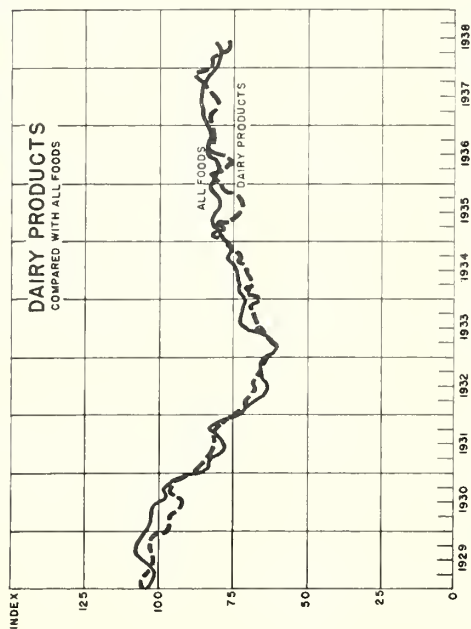
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Comments: Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

1/ Prices as of the 15th of each month or as of the reporting date nearest the 15th. The prices are weighted to derive the cost indexes given above.

2/ Average price for month indicated.

# RETAIL COST OF FOOD: DAIRY PRODUCTS, EGGS, FATS AND OILS, MEATS, AND ALL FOODS, 1929 TO DATE INDEX NUMBERS, 1923-25 = 100



SOURCE OF DATA: U. S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF HOME ECONOMICS  
NEG. 27



## Cost of food (continued)

Out of every food dollar the city wage earner's family spends about 36 cents for meat and eggs; about 20 cents for bakery products and cereals; about 18 cents for dairy products (including butter); 15 cents for fruits and vegetables; 4 cents for fats (other than butter) and oils; a little more than 3 cents for sugars, and about 4 cents for miscellaneous items, including coffee, tea, chocolate, and seasonings. Obviously, a change in meat prices affects the index of cost of food to such families much more than a proportional change in prices of vegetables or fats.

How a farm family divides its money for food depends upon its home-production program. If the farm furnishes so much food for family use that less than a quarter of the food need be purchased, the division of each food dollar is often something like this:

	Cents		Cents
Bread, flour, cereals.....	33	Meats, eggs.....	9
Sugars.....	18	Fruits, vegetables....	9
Fats (incl. butter)	15	Milk, cheese....	3
Coffee, tea, seasonings.....	13		100

If on the other hand, the production for home use is less extensive and from 25 to 50 percent of the food supply must be purchased, more dollars are spent for food, and each may be divided something like this:

	Cents		Cents
Bread, flour, cereals.....	27	Sugars.....	13
Vegetables, fruits.....	18	Coffee, tea, seasonings.....	10
Meats, eggs.....	15	Milk, cheese.....	2
Fats (incl. butter)	15		100

If practically all of the food of the farm family must be purchased, its food spending pattern is much like that of the city wage earner. In most cases much food is farm furnished and retail costs of all foods to farm families are much more influenced by price changes in grain products, sugars, fats, and miscellaneous items than those of city families. On the other hand, they are less influenced by price changes of meat and milk.

Retail cost of food<sup>1/</sup>: Dairy products, eggs, fats and oils, meats, and all foods, 1929 to date  
Index numbers, 1923-25 = 100

Date	Dairy prod- ucts	Eggs	Fats and oils	Meats	All foods
1929					
January.....	105.1	105.0	94.1	117.6	102.7
April.....	102.9	76.4	93.7	120.7	100.8
July.....	101.6	91.3	93.3	125.9	106.5
October.....	103.5	120.3	92.6	121.6	107.6
1930					
January.....	96.8	112.2	89.1	118.6	104.6
April.....	96.8	71.8	87.7	117.7	103.3
July.....	92.6	73.4	86.2	112.5	97.5
October.....	96.5	95.1	88.5	111.1	97.8
1931					
January.....	85.9	75.1	81.2	104.9	89.2
April.....	81.8	58.1	74.1	99.4	83.9
July.....	77.9	60.9	67.5	96.7	80.7
October.....	83.1	81.6	66.9	93.0	79.9
1932					
January.....	73.1	62.1	60.1	81.1	72.8
April.....	67.1	44.3	52.7	78.3	70.3
July.....	63.8	49.3	49.9	79.3	68.3
October.....	65.4	73.2	50.5	73.1	66.3
1933					
January.....	63.4	66.9	46.9	64.8	62.6
April.....	60.4	40.7	44.7	63.4	60.1
July.....	67.4	51.5	51.4	66.0	71.0
October.....	69.0	68.8	50.8	69.0	71.6
1934					
January.....	66.9	61.4	48.7	65.9	70.6
April.....	68.4	51.5	51.0	71.4	72.2
July.....	71.1	55.8	52.8	77.2	73.7
October.....	73.2	74.0	64.3	81.5	76.0

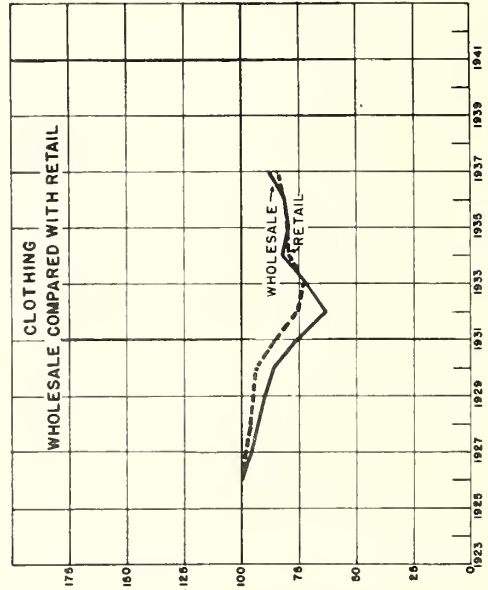
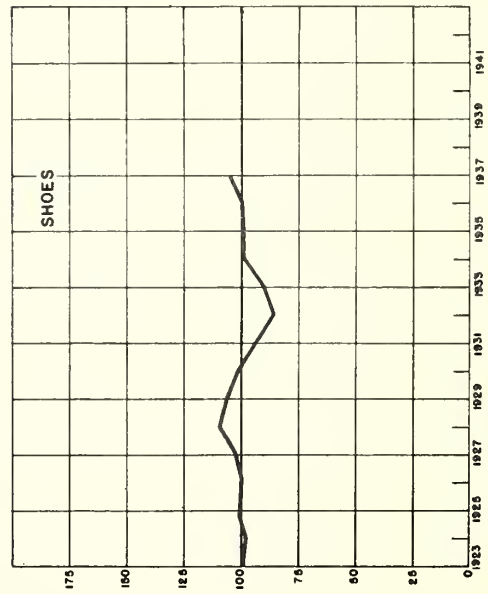
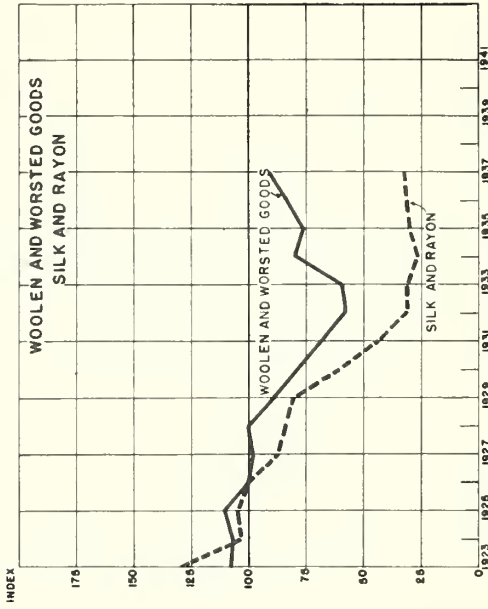
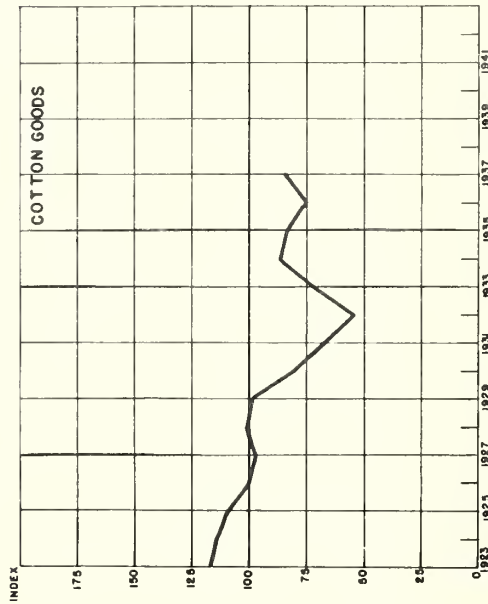
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Date	Dairy prod- ucts	Eggs	Fats and oils	Meats	All foods
1935					
January.....	77.5	76.3	73.1	84.7	77.7
April.....	80.4	60.8	80.8	95.2	81.4
July.....	72.7	68.8	82.2	98.1	80.2
October.....	73.5	83.8	87.2	101.3	79.9
1936					
January.....	79.8	73.8	79.3	97.3	81.7
April.....	77.8	57.4	75.2	94.1	79.7
July.....	79.6	67.8	73.0	94.9	84.0
October.....	82.5	83.7	76.3	94.7	82.8
1937					
January.....	83.4	76.3	79.6	95.7	84.6
February.....	83.0	65.0	80.1	94.3	84.5
March.....	83.6	64.3	80.3	95.4	85.4
April.....	81.6	64.7	80.2	97.7	85.6
May.....	80.1	61.8	78.9	99.7	86.5
June.....	79.7	62.5	79.5	102.3	86.3
July.....	80.9	68.0	79.5	107.8	85.9
August.....	81.9	71.9	79.9	111.6	85.5
September...	83.9	79.0	78.4	111.4	85.8
October.....	85.1	81.6	77.5	108.8	84.9
November....	86.6	84.9	74.8	102.8	83.6
December....	88.2	76.7	72.0	98.0	82.6
1938					
January.....	83.9	70.1	70.2	93.8	80.3
February....	81.9	59.4	69.5	90.6	78.4
March.....	81.4	57.4	69.5	92.9	78.6
April.....	79.8	56.9	68.6	94.8	79.4
May.....	77.2	60.5	68.0	95.2	79.1
June.....	76.0	63.4	67.4	96.9	80.2
July.....	76.2	68.0	67.7	99.3	80.0
August.....					
September...					
October.....					
November....					
December....					

Comments: Bureau of Agricultural Economics

<sup>1/</sup> Prices as of the 15th of each month or as of the reporting date nearest the 15th. The prices are weighted to derive the cost indexes given above.

# WHOLESALE COSTS OF TEXTILES AND CLOTHING, 1923 TO DATE INDEX NUMBERS, 1926 = 100



SOURCE OF DATA: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 BUREAU OF HOME ECONOMICS  
 NEG. 26

Wholesale costs of textiles and clothing, 1923 to date. Index numbers, 1926 = 100

Prices of commodities which have been put through several stages of processing tend to fluctuate less than those of commodities nearer to the raw material stage. From 1928 to 1932 the wholesale prices of cotton and woolen goods declined more than those of shoes and clothing, and during the following period of rising prices, 1932 to 1937, textiles increased in price more than shoes and clothing.

Wholesale prices of cotton goods dropped by one-third from the high of April 1937 to June 1938. Prices of woolen and worsted goods declined 20 percent from July 1937 to June 1938. However, wholesale prices of shoes declined only

5 percent from the peak of October 1937 until June 1938, and clothing, 9 percent from July 1937 to June 1938.

With improved methods of manufacture and lowered prices, there has been a striking increase in the per capita consumption of rayon. This trend and a decrease in demand for silk have tended to lower silk prices. Changes in wholesale prices of clothing tend to precede and be more marked than changes in retail prices. The decline in the index of wholesale clothing prices that started last summer was not reflected in the index of retail prices until late winter.

Year	Wholesale					Retail
	Cotton goods	Silk and rayon <sup>1/</sup>	Woolen and worsted goods	Shoes <sup>2/</sup>	Clothing	Clothing
1923.....	116.9	129.5	107.5	99.1	-	-
1924.....	114.7	103.1	106.8	98.4	-	-
1925.....	110.0	104.5	110.2	100.5	-	-
1926.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1927.....	97.1	87.1	97.8	102.6	95.8	98.0
1928.....	100.4	83.7	100.1	109.9	93.2	96.6
1929.....	98.8	80.4	88.3	106.3	90.0	95.6
1930.....	84.7	60.2	79.0	102.0	86.2	93.5
1931.....	66.1	43.5	68.2	93.7	75.9	85.3
1932.....	54.0	31.0	57.7	86.1	63.0	75.5
1933.....	71.2	30.6	69.3	90.2	72.2	73.1
1934.....	86.5	26.7	79.7	98.1	82.5	79.9
1935.....	83.4	30.2	76.1	98.0	79.8	80.3
1936.....	80.3	31.2	82.9	99.8	81.1	81.1
1937.....	84.3	32.5	91.1	105.0	87.9	84.9
1938.....						
1937						
January.....	91.9	34.5	91.9	99.7	83.9	-
February.....	91.3	33.7	93.1	101.4	84.2	-
March.....	94.0	33.6	92.6	102.3	84.8	83.4
April.....	95.1	33.8	93.5	103.8	86.8	-
May.....	92.6	32.5	93.3	106.1	87.2	-
June.....	89.7	32.5	93.2	107.5	89.1	84.6
July.....	86.8	33.9	94.4	107.4	90.1	-
August.....	82.2	32.9	93.9	107.4	90.0	-
September.....	76.8	32.4	92.4	107.5	89.7	86.6
October.....	73.1	30.6	90.1	107.6	89.4	-
November.....	70.5	30.1	85.1	106.9	87.3	-
December.....	68.7	29.4	83.5	105.6	86.7	86.6
1938						
January.....	68.2	28.9	83.8	104.7	86.3	-
February.....	67.6	28.5	81.0	104.6	85.8	-
March.....	67.5	28.8	80.2	104.6	84.6	85.4
April.....	65.7	28.9	77.1	104.5	84.6	-
May.....	65.0	28.4	76.0	102.5	82.2	-
June.....	63.9	27.6	75.6	101.8	82.2	84.8
July.....	65.1	29.9	75.9	101.2	81.7	-
August.....	64.4	29.2	76.3	100.8	81.7	-
September.....						
October.....						
November.....						
December.....						

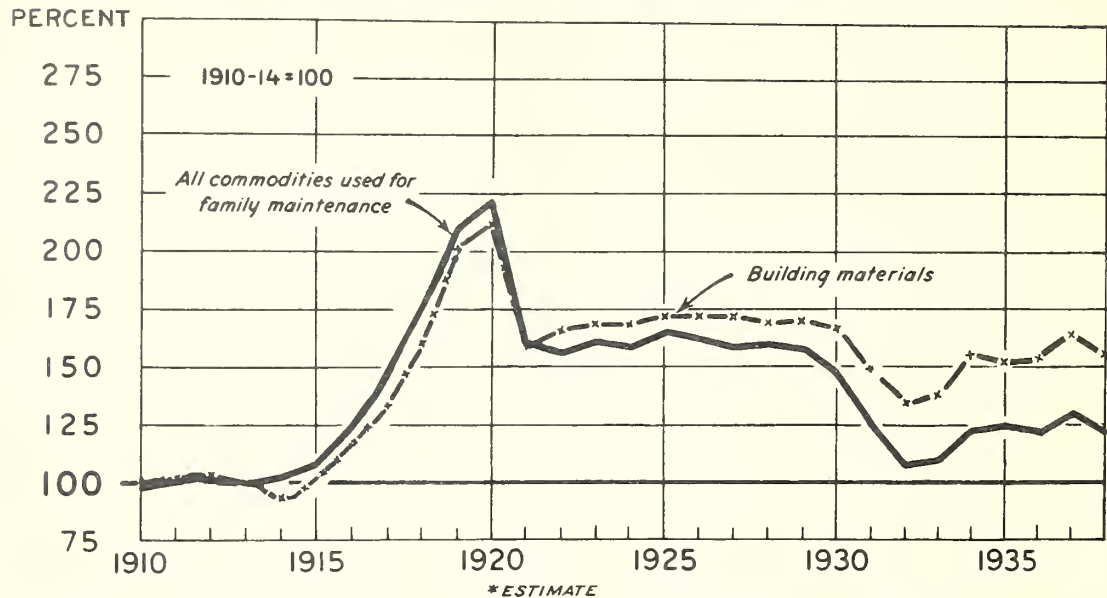
Source of price data: Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Comments: Bureau of Agricultural Economics

<sup>1/</sup> Rayon added in January 1926

<sup>2/</sup> Boots included prior to January 1936



## Prices Paid by Farmers for Building Materials for House, and Family Maintenance, 1910 to Date

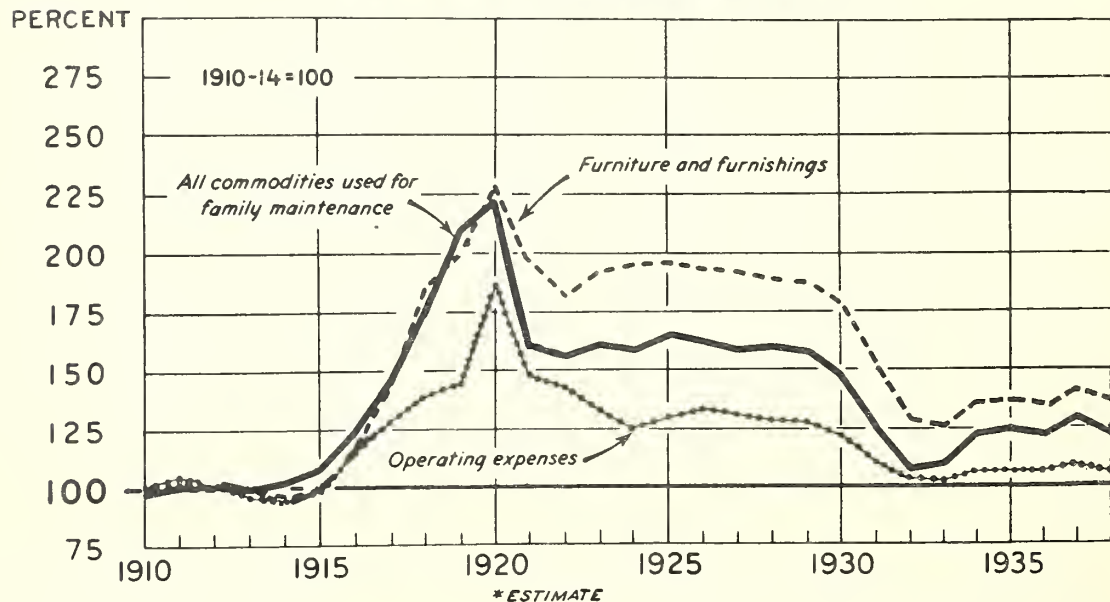


U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 34601

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

## Prices Paid by Farmers for Operating Expenses, Furniture and Furnishings, and Family Maintenance, 1910 to Date



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 34602

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Prices paid by farmers for operating expenses, furniture and furnishings, building materials for the house, and family maintenance, 1910 to date.  
Index numbers, 1910-14 = 100

Prices of commodities included in the index for operating expenses showed a small advance in 1937, and a slight downward trend in the first half of 1938. The term "operating expenses" as here used includes not only such items as fuel, laundry and cleaning supplies, but also gasoline, oil, and tires for family use of the automobile. Half of the purchase price of the car is taken into account in deriving the index for all commodities used for family maintenance, but it does not appear in any of the separate groups of commodities.

Prices of furniture, furnishings, and building materials were higher in 1937 than 1936. By June 1938, along with most other items, these prices were lower than for the corresponding period of 1937 or for that year as a whole. These items comprise a relatively small proportion of the farm family budget.

Prices paid by farmers for operating expenses, furniture and furnishings, building materials for the house, and family maintenance, 1923 to date.  
Index numbers, 1910-14 = 100

Year	Operating expenses	Furniture and furnishings	Building materials for house	All commodities used for family maintenance
1923 . . . .	132	192	168	160
1924 . . . .	125	196	168	159
1925 . . . .	129	197	172	164
1926 . . . .	133	193	172	162
1927 . . . .	131	192	172	159
1928 . . . .	128	189	169	160
1929 . . . .	127	188	170	158
1930 . . . .	122	179	166	148
1931 . . . .	110	153	149	126
1932 . . . .	103	128	134	108
1933 . . . .	102	126	138	109
1934 . . . .	106	136	155	122
1935 . . . .	106	136	152	124
1936 . . . .	106	134	154	122
1937 . . . .	109	142	164	128
1938 . . . .				

Bureau of Agricultural Economics

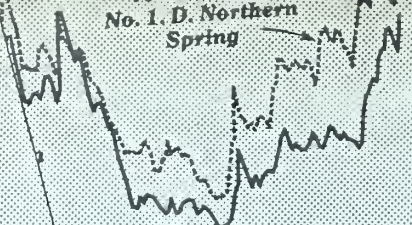
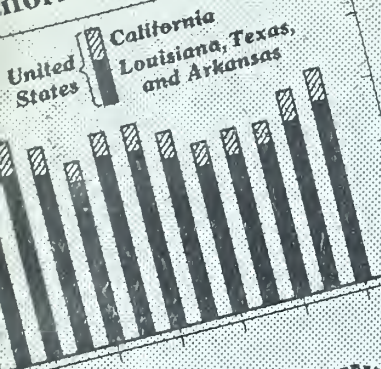








Per Acre, Production,  
ifornia, 1919 to Date

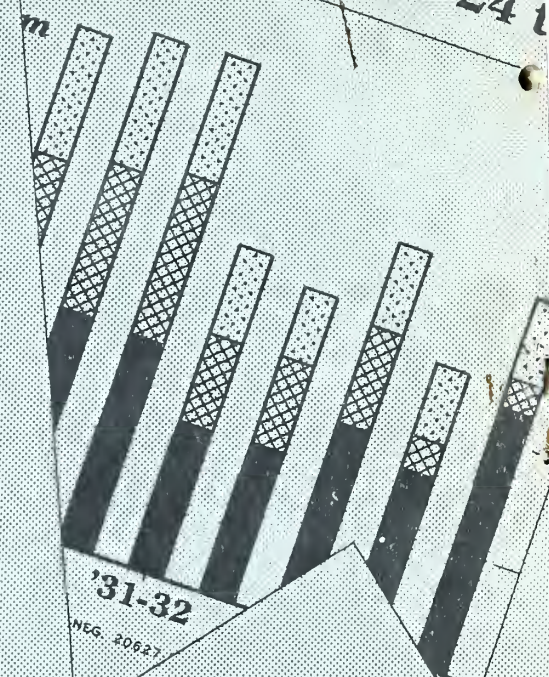


AND TARIFF LEVEL

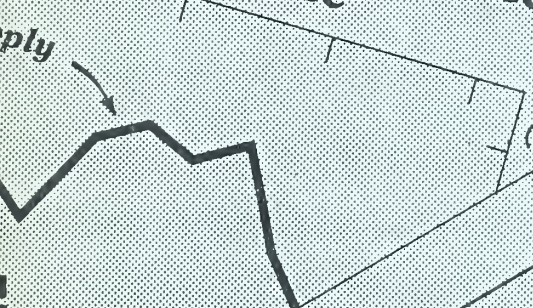


IMPORTS FOR  
EL DUTY PAID

Illustration NOT MADE FOR BULLETIN  
Cured Tobacco, 1923-24



World Supply and Price,  
22-23 to Date\*

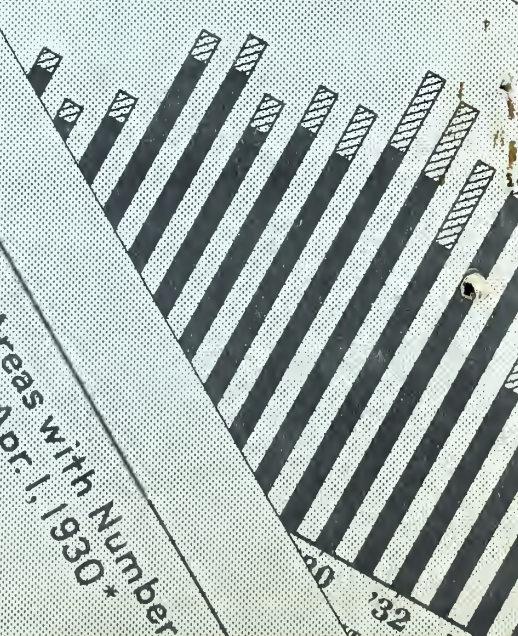


Wheat, /  
S. Cold-Storage Stocks  
1916 to D

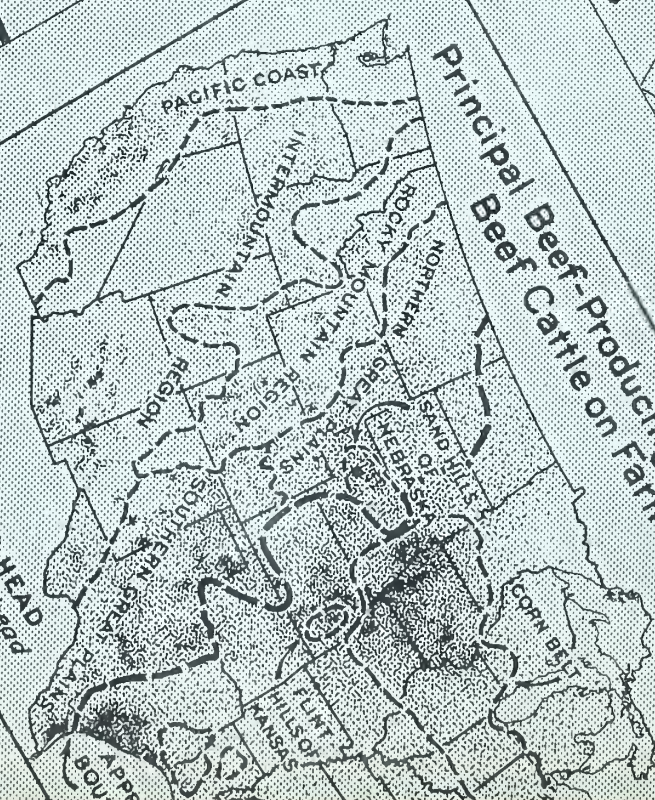
CASES  
(MILLIONS)  
14

12

Frozen eggs  
Eggs in shell



Principal Beef-Producing Areas with Number  
Beef Cattle on Farms, Apr. 1, 1930\*



U.S. TOTAL 19,985,000 HEAD  
Each dot represents 2,500 head